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FORT MCMURRAY
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 OF A CRISIS
 metroVIEWS

Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2016

High 11°C/Low 7°C Rain



A helicopter battles the wildfire on Wednesday.

JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The hardest thing to describe is the wind — a deep, gut punch of a blast powerful enough to form dust spirals along the highway, and nearly as hot on your face as when you open an oven

Metro reports from inside a national catastrophe, page 3

SPECIAL REPORT FORT MCMURRAY WILDFIRE

10 pages of COVERAGE

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Facing fire

 **Tim Querengesser**
IN FORT MCMURRAY

The hardest thing to describe is the wind — a deep, gut punch of a blast powerful enough to form dust spirals along the highway, and nearly as hot on your face as when you open an oven.

The next thing is the smell — solvents, charcoal, ash — punctuated by the sound of sirens and desperate calls, seemingly everywhere along the highway, for diesel — “you got any diesel?”

Those calls were part of the overriding feeling of helplessness Wednesday evening, here on the southern edge of Fort McMurray, as dozens of people who wanted to help were forced to hold station by police as the fire yet again crossed Highway 63, the only road into town.

“Black smoke usually means a house or a car is on fire,” said Jeff Parker, sitting in frustrated limbo in the cab of his truck as 50,000 litres of diesel — intended for firefighters battling the blaze — sat uselessly behind him. “And I see a lot of black smoke.”

Parker has been trucking up to Fort McMurray since 2009 and has dozens of friends who live there, many of whom have been displaced.

“It’s the old proverbial saying that it all depends on how the wind blows,” he said. “Right now it’s not the right way. What



Fort McMurray resident Crystal Maltais buckles in her daughter, McKenna Stapley, after evacuating their home Tuesday.
COURTESY TOPHER SEGUIN

I saw today is 1,000 times worse than yesterday.”

Just a few kilometres north, the fire that people who fight them have called “nasty” — one that has pushed more than 88,000 people to flee north and south of a remote city surrounded by boreal forest — continued inflicting pain.

By Wednesday evening its flames had swollen to 10,000 hectares, from 7,500, and of-

“

It’s the old proverbial saying that it all depends on how the wind blows. Right now it’s not the right way. What I saw today is 1,000 times worse than yesterday.

Jeff Parker

ficials worried the class 4 fire might potentially spread to the city’s airport. More than 250 firefighters, many who came at a

moment’s notice to help, were battling to save a city that’s small in population but central to the economic health of Alberta.

That fight was already lost in many areas: More than 1,600 homes and business have been destroyed, and with the trifecta of 30°C temperatures, low humidity and strong winds — along with worries about lightning storms — officials feared the fire was not done destroying.

On Wednesday afternoon, Alberta Premier Rachel Notley declared a state of emergency, the Canadian military began mobil-

izing to help and the fire claimed its first fatality — in a car accident near Lac La Biche, as thousands continued to flee south.

Approaching the city from Edmonton, kilometre-long convoys of pickups, trucks, evacuation buses and SUVs, many coated in beige ash, turned roads in northern Alberta into a human river.

Abandoned vehicles — including one city bus — were left scattered along Highway 63’s shoulders, an apocalyptic vibe counteracted by dozens of good Samaritans, who set up spontaneous gas stations and restaurants Wednesday night on the asphalt, offering gasoline out of jerry cans, water or food out of the back of their pickup trucks.

“It’s going to be a long-term recovery,” said Scott Long, executive director of provincial operations at Alberta Emergency Management Agency, in a daily briefing on the fire. “The damages are surprising. It will take years (to recover), for sure.”

From Parker’s cab, watching clouds of smoke billow through the windshield, that was a sentiment shared.

“To bounce back from this, it’s doable, but it’s not going to be overnight,” he said.

Tim Querengesser is the managing editor of Metro Edmonton. He has written about Fort McMurray for various publications and has covered western and northern Canada since 2008.

A FIRE UNFOLDS

From the first spark to a barren city, these are the moments that defined the disaster

Fort McMurray Mayor Melissa Blake signs a local state of emergency, allowing officials to declare evacuation orders for communities.

MAY 1 - 9:57 PM >>>

MAY 1 - 10:55 PM >>>



MAY 2 - 6:05 AM >>>

Residents are warned of poor air quality and low visibility in much of Wood Buffalo.

Newborns among evacuated

EMERGENCY

Alberta Health Services moves patients to safety quickly

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Edmonton

During the height of the fire consuming Fort McMurray, Alberta Health Services staff had to evacuate more than 100 patients from the city's hospital to escape, including nine newborn babies.

Dr. Verna Yiu AHS' Interim CEO confirmed early Wednesday morning that they had successfully moved all of the patients out of the Northern Lights Regional Health Centre to Edmonton.

"We had nine babies that were in the neonatal unit that actually had their mother with them and had to be evacuated," she said.

Yiu said AHS worked with WestJet to dispatch a plane to an oilsands site where most of



A family takes refuge in the back of their boat after evacuation at a rest stop near Fort McMurray, Alta. THE CANADIAN PRESS

the patients were initially evacuated to and brought all of them to Edmonton. She said it was an incredible effort.

"I have to say that I am really,

really grateful and proud of our staff," she said.

She said moving that many patients, who are now scattered around Edmonton hospitals, took

an enormous amount of co-ordination and work, all while many employees were losing their own homes.

"Those employees and staff

also had their own families to worry about," she said.

She said all of the patients including the newborns were healthy.

SURVIVAL

Escaping a city of fire and smoke on horseback

Liz Brown
Metro | Canada

As the wind changed and wildfires pushed toward the north side of Fort McMurray, 16-year-old Jada Polem saddled up her horse and started riding through the bumper-to-bumper traffic on Confederation Way.

On Monday, her family had moved their three horses from Clearwater Horse Club on the city's south side to a north-side campground they thought would be safe. But Tuesday, winds shifted and in hours they were moving their horses again.

"We were waiting for trailers to come back to pick up my horse, but it became impos-

sible for them to get through," says Polem.

As the smoke worsened, Polem's father drove the truck and trailer that could only hold two horses while his daughter rode the third alongside. It was a terrifying prospect, as horses can be nervous in traffic, but Polem saw no other choice.

"She was a little nervous," Polem says of her Quarter

Horse mare Mya. "But she handled it really well."

Now the whole family — horses included — is safe. They're camping in their trailer in Boyle, 350 kilometres south of Fort McMurray. But Polem isn't sure about the status of their home. If there is extensive damage to their home, the family may stay in Boyle for the summer as they rebuild.



Karley Kenny, also a member of the Clearwater Horse Club, escapes on her horse while ponying two others. JULIE LODGE



Cuddles is believed trapped in an apartment. CONTRIBUTED

Compassion Crisis means displaced animals

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

Many animals in Fort McMurray have been displaced or left behind as wildfires continued to burn at "explosive" levels Wednesday.

Deanna Thompson, executive director of the Alberta Animal Rescue Society, said some will be flown to Calgary.

At a news conference Wednesday morning, Fort McMurray Fire Chief Darby Allen said 48 animals saved from homes are at the McDonald Reception Centre. But other animals have not been so lucky.

RJ Bailot, executive director with the Alberta Spay Neuter Task Force, said rescue groups have been barred from entering the city to rescue animals trapped in homes.

"It's awful," he said. "We have dogs and cats in homes that are desperate. There's nothing we can do."

Bailot said a Facebook page, Fort McMurray Fire Emergency Animal Assistance, has been created to let owners know which camps and hotels are accepting animals.



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A FIRE UNFOLDS

From the first spark to a barren city, these are the moments that defined the disaster

550

MAY 2 - 11:00 AM >>>

Officials say the fire is between 550 and 750 hectares in size but not yet threatening homes.



MAY 2 - 11:16 AM >>>

The communities of Prairie Creek, Gregoire and Centennial Park are mostly evacuated.



Vehicles line the highway as residents leave Fort McMurray, Alta., on Tuesday. A wildfire has put all of the city under a mandatory evacuation order, which means that thousands of people who live there were told to flee. JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Fort McMurray evacuation

EMERGENCY

Success was not without some loss of life

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

The successful evacuation of 88,000 people from Fort McMurray was a gargantuan undertaking in such a short period of time.

Dale Benfield, deputy director of emergency management with the Rural Municipality of Wood Buffalo, told Metro the orderly response was due largely to early volunteer evacuation compliance, dividing the town in two, community assistance and social media.

The evacuation orders began Sunday, as Fort McMurray Mayor Melissa Blake signed a local state

of emergency, allowing officials to declare evacuation orders for communities.

Shortly after, volunteer evacuations began for the communities of Gregoire and Prairie Creek. Later on in the day, as fire conditions changed and the city limits were threatened, mandatory evacuation orders were put in place in Prairie Creek and Centennial Park.

There was a tragic turn of events Wednesday when an SUV collided head on with a tractor-trailer on Highway 881, a southern escape road, killing two and shutting down the road in both directions.

Volunteer departures begins

A fleet of buses was commandeered to get Gregoire residents evacuated to Mac Island and residents in Prairie Creek and Centennial Park were started to get moved out.

By early Monday, the volunteers

teer count that was set out had been reached, and those three communities were essentially cleared of residents.

Later that day, after an assessment of the fire, Prairie Creek and Gregoire residents were told they could return home if they chose, but most didn't go back, fearing the situation could escalate.

Mandatory evacuation ordered

Shifting winds and other weather factors combined to create a perfect storm for the wildfire to shift course and continue bearing down on the city.

At that time, Fort McMurray ordered mandatory evacuation for Beacon Hill, Abasand, Waterways, Draper, Saline Creek, Grayling Terrace, Downtown, Thickwood, Wood Buffalo and Dickinsfield.

A city divided

It was "the big move," ac-

cording to Benfield. He said the city decided to split Fort McMurray in two, where those who live south of the bridge would drive south on Highway 63 and those who live north would drive north.

Benfield said he didn't make notes during this time.

At 1 p.m. Tuesday afternoon, there were 75 officers working on the ground, knocking on doors, directing traffic and using loudspeakers to notify people.

Dozens of others were also on social media, notifying people online about evacuation information.

"We had to make some decisions based on speed and direction of fire," Benfield said.

"We had to make the best decisions we could with the information we had at the time."

Complete clearout

By 6 p.m. Tuesday, all residents of Fort McMurray were ordered to flee. But by this point,

MORE FIRES IN NORTHWEST ALBERTA

Two forest fires in northwest Alberta have forced more people out of their homes.

All residents in the hamlet of Glenavis, as well as those north of the Alexis reserve, about 68 kilometres northwest of Edmonton, have been ordered to evacuate the area.

"There's been one house that has burned so far," RCMP Cpl. Laurel Scott said Wednesday afternoon.

"There have been no injuries."

A reception centre was set up at the nearby Cherhill

Community Centre.

Also, rural residents south of High Level between Bushe Reserve and Highway 35 have been ordered to leave their homes due to a fire, according to Alberta Emergency Alert.

The government agency said residents have been asked to go to the Town of High Level office to register and receive further instructions.

High Level is 780 kilometres northwest of Edmonton. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Benfield said most of people were already on the road, either heading north or south as told.

But he commended residents for the smooth evacuation.

"This is where the community came together," he said.

"People were helping people. People weren't putting themselves before others — they were trying to help their neighbour and get everybody as quickly as told."

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A FIRE UNFOLDS

From the first spark to a barren city, these are the moments that defined the disaster

Residents are advised not to operate ATVs and overhead valve engines and to give crews room to work.

MAY 2 - 4:27 PM >>>

MAY 2 - 5:40 PM >>>

MAY 3 - 11:00AM >>>

Prairie Creek and Gregoire residents are told they can return home if they choose, but **most don't come back** in case the situation escalates.



Fire Chief Darby Allen urges residents to get their emergency kits ready. "We're in for a tough day," he says.

SUPPORT**Canada reacts to wildfires**

As one of the largest wildfires in recent memory burns through northern Alberta, governments, companies and organizations across are reaching out to help.

ONTARIO

The Ontario Natural Resources Ministry announced it would send water bombing aircraft and more than 100 fire rangers to Northern Alberta. The firefighters are scheduled to ship out Friday.

Toronto-based charity GlobalMedic is ready to commit aerial drones to help firefighters better view the affected areas. The aid organization has also offered inflatable housing and water purification materials.

CIBC is offering financial assistance to their Fort McMurray clients and donated \$100,000 to the Red Cross.

MANITOBA

Firefighters in Winnipeg are ready and willing to battle the blaze, if necessary.

"We'd have a quick turn-round to send resources if needed, but right now they're not requesting any because they have sufficient support from (fire departments) in Alberta," said Alex Forrest, president of the United Firefighters of Winnipeg.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

B.C. Premier Christy Clark told media Wednesday the province needs to focus on its own wildfires as a blaze continues to ravage Fort McMurray. The province is unable to spare any firefighters to help Alberta's efforts but Clark says B.C. has done "everything (Alberta) has asked." METRO

State of emergency in effect

CRISIS**Province takes control of 'unstable' situation**

Alberta declared a state of emergency Wednesday as crews frantically held back wind-whipped wildfires that have already torched 1,600 homes and other buildings in Fort McMurray, forcing all 80,000 residents to flee.

"The situation in Fort McMurray is not stable. It is unstable," Scott Long of Alberta Emergency Management told reporters in a Wednesday afternoon briefing.

"The downtown core is being held through some Herculean efforts of the structural firefighters in the area."

Municipal Affairs Minister Danielle Larivee said the state of emergency allows the province to take full control of the situation, conscript people if necessary, and bulldoze structures as required.

"We are still in the throes of an intense crisis," said Larivee.

There were dangerous and dramatic developments on multiple fronts Wednesday in a story that has made headlines worldwide with stunning video footage of trucks and cars driving past sheer walls of flame.

There were haunting images of scorched trucks, charred homes and telephone poles, burned out from the bottom up, hanging in the wires like little wooden crosses.

Alberta Premier Rachel Notley flew up to survey the situation

first-hand, while officials in the evacuation centre had to bolt to the south of the city as flames edged closer.

Notley tweeted pictures of the fire from above. "The view from the air is heartbreaking," she wrote.

The blaze effectively cut Fort McMurray in two late Tuesday, forcing about 10,000 north to the safety of oilsands work camps.

The other 70,000 were sent streaming south in a bumper-to-bumper snake line of cars and trucks that stretched beyond the horizon down Highway 63. Some vehicles sat in ditches, the victims of engine trouble or a lack of gas.

The displaced arrived in communities of Anzac, Lac La Biche and Edmonton. Some were going as far as Calgary.

Crews had been battling the blaze since Sunday. But the situation turned destructive within minutes on Tuesday afternoon when the blaze, whipped up by winds, roared into the southwest corner of the city.

It engulfed homes in three subdivisions and destroyed vehicles, gas stations and a motel. Most of the homes in the suburbs of Beacon Hill and Waterways were destroyed.

There have been no reports of fire-related injuries or deaths.

The wildfire was still listed out of control as it curled around the city, 435 kilometres northeast of Edmonton, and was expected to reach 10,000 hectares by day's end.

Robin Smith with the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, which includes the city, said it was believed everyone



A helicopter battles an out-of-control wildfire in the evacuated oil hub of Fort McMurray, Alta., on Wednesday. JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

left the city.

"We have RCMP patrols that are regularly looping the neighbourhoods to make sure there's no one straggling," said Smith.

Long said area pipeline operations were shutting or reducing operations, and residents of the

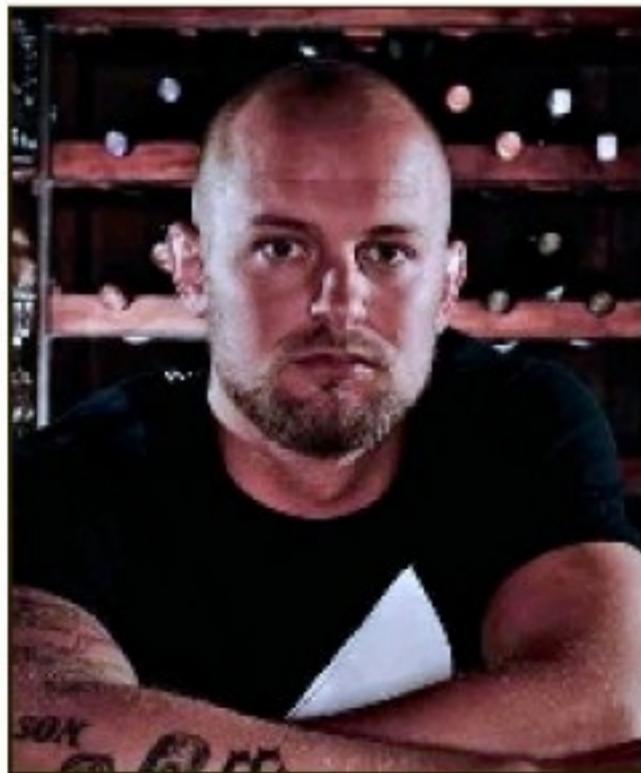
nearby Alexis-Nakota First Nation were ready to leave on an hour's notice if necessary.

Mayor Melissa Blake said her city is strong and remembers Slave Lake, a community devastated by wildfires in 2011.

The province said 255 fire-

fighters were on scene, backed up by 12 helicopters and 17 air tankers. The military has provided rescue helicopters and 15 residents who had been cut off by fire were airlifted to safety, Long said.

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A FIRE UNFOLDS

From the first spark to a barren city, these are the moments that defined the disaster



Mandatory evacuations are issued. Residents are told to go now to MacDonald Island Park.

MAY 3 - 2:05 PM

>>>

Trudeau pledges 'total support'

RESOURCES

Full federal assistance on offer to Fort McMurray

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says the federal government will provide all possible assistance to Alberta as wildfires ravage Fort McMurray.

Canada is a country of people who help each other in challenging times, Trudeau told his caucus Wednesday.

"I've been dealing with offers of support and calls from the Atlantic provinces, all the way out to B.C., as people are looking for how they can support their friends and neighbours as people go through this difficult time."

Trudeau urged people with friends or family in Fort McMurray to make sure they are OK and ask what help they need.

Federal leaders called on Canadians who want to help to donate to the Red Cross.

The prime minister said he has already spoken to Alberta Premier Rachel Notley to offer his government's "total



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says Canada is a country of people who help each other in challenging times. THE CANADIAN PRESS

support."

Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan, in a conference call from Germany early Wednesday, confirmed a formal request for assistance has been received from the Alberta government.

Notley told a news conference that a memorandum of understanding had been signed with National Defence to provide helicopters for search-and-rescue efforts in isolated spots around Fort McMurray as well as transport aircraft to fly in firefighters.

"Our province is strong and we will get through this," she said.

The office of Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale, the federal focal point for assistance, was expected to provide more details later Wednesday.

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A FIRE UNFOLDS

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Highway 63 southbound is closed at Mackenzie Boulevard.

MAY 3 - 3:39 PM

All of Fort McMurray is placed under a mandatory evacuation order, including MacDonald Island.

MAY 3 - 6:20 PM



Highway 63 southbound opens south of Confederation Way.

MAY 3 - 8:25 PM



Alberta Premier Rachel Notley gives an update on the wildfire situation currently underway in and around Fort McMurray at the Provincial Operations Centre in Edmonton.

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Notley won't attend premiers' meeting

AGENDAS

Conference for provincial leaders in B.C. this week

A disastrous wildfire raging in northern Alberta has forced government leaders in western Canada to tweak their plans to meet in Vancouver later this week and has pushed emergency management toward the front of the meeting's agenda.

Alberta Premier Rachel Notley will no longer attend the 2016 Western Premiers' Conference, which is scheduled to run Thursday and Friday.

Deputy Premier Sarah Hoff-

man, who also serves as the province's health minister, will replace Notley as Alberta's representative.

British Columbia Premier Christy Clark, who is hosting the annual gathering, said emergency management will be at the forefront of the discussions as the blaze in Fort McMurray, Alta., forces tens of thousands to flee the encroaching flames.

"Alberta's in the midst of it at the moment, but every other western province experiences forest fires, floods, concerns about earthquakes and other disasters," Clark said on Wednesday.

"So that's going to be a major focus for us."

Still, Clark said, much of the

conference would also centre around the economy, given what she described as Western Canada's role in a national context.

"We have traditionally been the economic engine of the country for the last decade," she said.

The meeting will also focus on job creation, immigration and infrastructure investment, and she will push her counterparts to reach consensus on renegotiating a softwood lumber deal with the United States, Clark said.

Two provincial elections have taken place since last year's conference, and premiers will be making room for a new face at the table.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SUPPORT

Military aircraft fighting wildfire

The Canadian military has deployed helicopters and transport planes in response to the raging wildfire that has incinerated parts of Fort McMurray, Alta. — with more support to come as needed.

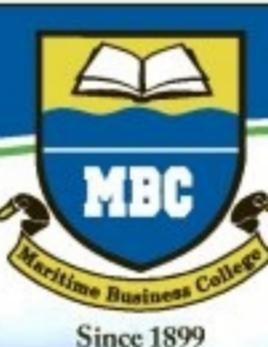
Four CH-146 Griffon helicopters were en route to perform

evacuations in surrounding communities under threat from the raging blaze.

Additionally, a C-130J Hercules has been moved to the nearby military airfield in Cold Lake, while a second Hercules and a C-17 Globemaster heavy-lift transport are on standby at the country's

largest military airbase in Trenton, Ont., to aid in the movement of firefighters and equipment.

Brig.-Gen. Wayne Eyre, who is in charge of the 3rd Canadian Division and the military commander for Western Canada, called it a "very dynamic" situation. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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A FIRE UNFOLDS

From the first spark to a barren city, these are the moments that defined the disaster

Buses at Timberlea Extra Foods and Jubilee Centre are set up to take evacuees to Anzac.



Motorists stranded on Highway 63 are asked to stay put as police patrol the area with gas cans.

MAY 3 - 9:15 PM

MAY 3 - 9:41 PM

MAY 3 - 10:00 PM

Gas companies tend to needy

SHELTER

Focus on relief effort rather than business

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Alberta's oil and gas companies are scaling back to essential workers, are housing evacuees and are even shutting down facilities as wildfires continue to threaten Fort McMurray, Alta.

As 88,000 people fled the immediate region of Fort McMurray — seeking refuge in several camps set up to house

evacuees — companies such as Suncor, Shell and Imperial Oil and Husky were being run on skeleton crews.

On Wednesday, Shell said it made the decision to focus on getting employees and their families out of the region while also freeing up room at its 2,000-person work camp for some of the 80,000 people who were ordered evacuated Tuesday from Fort McMurray.

Shell's mining operation is located about 70 kilometres north of the city.

"Right now, our priority is providing support for our people, their loved ones and others in the area," Shell spokesman Cameron Yost said in an email. "Our work camp, the Albion Village, is

now open to all evacuated Fort McMurray residents."

Others, like Calgary-based Husky Energy, whose site is some 60 kilometres from the fire, said it's business as usual.

"We have opened our camp facilities to evacuees, and we're helping in any way we can," said Mel Duvall, spokesman for Husky.

Suncor Energy spokesman Paul Newmarch said that company has evacuated all non-essential employees from the operations across the region.

Imperial Oil hasn't had any impact to operations, but is reducing staff to essential workers at the Kurel oilsands mine while keeping a close eye on the situation as it develops.



Raging forest fires whipped up by shifting winds sliced through the middle of the remote oilsands hub city of Fort McMurray, prompting the evacuation of the entire city.

TERRY REITH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

COVERAGE Track all expenses: Insurers

Insurance providers are preparing to assess the damage from a massive fire still burning in Fort McMurray, Alta., that has charred homes, cars and other treasured possessions.

The Insurance Bureau of Canada is urging those who have been forced to leave the city to contact their insurance providers and keep track of all their expenses.

"Insurers are mobilized and will answer questions," said IBC spokesman Steve Kee.

Home insurance typically provides coverage for the property, the possessions inside and living expenses incurred while unable to stay in the residence, said Rocco Neglia, vice-president of claims at Economical Insurance. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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A FIRE UNFOLDS

From the first spark to a barren city, these are the moments that defined the disaster

Northlands Exhibition Centre opens its doors in Edmonton to accept Fort McMurray evacuees.



Highway 63 reopens north of Confederation, but fuel is not readily available.

7.5K

Officials say the out-of-control conflagration spans between 7,500 and 10,000 hectares.

MAY 4 - 12:00 AM

MAY 4 - 1:20 AM

MAY 4 - 10:00 AM

A world up in smoke

As fire ravages Fort McMurray, Alta., these images depict some harrowing scenes from the carnage.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**SURREAL VIEW**

This photo taken through a car windshield shows smoke rising from a wildfire as it rages outside of Fort McMurray on Tuesday. The entire population of the Canadian oilands city had been ordered to evacuate as the wildfire whipped by winds engulfed homes and sent ash raining down on residents. MARY ANNE SEXSMITH-SEGATO/THE CANADIAN PRESS VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAVING WHAT THEY CAN

Family pictures packed in suitcases are seen as a family of evacuees camp out on their van at a beach south of Fort McMurray on Wednesday.

JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS



FUEL FOR THE ROAD AHEAD People gather for gas being handed out at a rest stop near Fort McMurray on Wednesday.

JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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A FIRE UNFOLDS
From the first spark to a barren city, these are the moments that defined the disaster

88K

MAY 4 - 10:28 AM >>>



Wood Buffalo announces 88,000 people have been evacuated, with no reports of injury.



A boil-water advisory is issued for the entire region.

MAY 4 - 11:06 AM >>>



Evacuees from the wildfires in and around Fort McMurray hug at the evacuation centre at the Edmonton Expo Centre in Edmonton on Wednesday. CODIE MCLACHLAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Standing together

NATIONAL EMBRACE

The ties that bind N.S. to Fort McMurray are strong

Olivia Carey
For Metro | Halifax

Fort McMurray may seem a long way away for many Maritimers, but a large community of East Coast residents are feeling the effects of the region's wildfires.

Ryan Porter is among the cohort of Nova Scotians fleeing the region.

"I wear a small Nova Scotian flag sticker on my hard hat and I'm always approached with a handshake and smile and asked from what town I'm from," Porter said, speaking about the community of Nova Scotians working on the Fort McMurray oil site.

Originally from Lunenburg, Porter travels back and forth be-

tween Alberta and Nova Scotia. He has been back in Fort McMurray for about a month, and said there is a huge presence of Atlantic Canadians at the site.

"You meet a lot of great people out here from home and it just makes you realize how much Fort McMurray means to everyone from all corners of Canada," he said in an interview Wednesday.

Brad Dicks, a former resident of Middle Sackville, N.S., has been working in Fort McMurray since 2014.

"There are a lot of Nova Scotians here. They are Cape Bretoners for the most part (that I know), but there are definitely lots of us here," he said.

Halifax Mayor Mike Savage said the connection between the east coast and Fort McMurray runs deep as many Nova Scotian families continue to move out to Alberta for work.

"I think it affects us perhaps more directly than it does some other places outside of Fort McMurray," he said.

Kindness, generosity, hospitality, warmth and heroism are spreading faster than our wildfire right now. Waverley's Ronnie Milley, who currently lives in Fort McMurray

CLOSE TO HOME

Stellarton man working near wildfires was out town

Jason MacDonald is finding it hard to believe what he's hearing from co-workers and seeing in the media the damage that the fire in Fort McMurray is causing. "I guess she's bad, real bad, up

where I live," said MacDonald, who lives in Stellarton but works in Abasand near Fort McMurray.

He's heard reports that half the community he lives in has burned. Whether the place he's

staying is one of them or not, he's not sure.

"There's two sides, the old side and new side. I lived in the new side. The whole old side is gone."

MacDonald has a few more

days work near Edmonton. He said there's a lot of uncertainty.

"I don't know what's going to happen after this is all done. I don't know where this leaves people." TC MEDIA

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Officials update damage to homes, including a 90 per cent loss in the Waterways neighbourhood, 70 per cent in Beacon Hill and 50 per cent in Abasand. Thirteen trailers were lost in McKinlay Crescent and roughly 30 in Wood Buffalo. In total, roughly 1,600 structures have been destroyed.



The Alberta government declares a state of emergency.

The fire breaches the intersection of Highway 63 and Highway 69, so no traffic can pass northbound or southbound

MAY 4 - 12:30 PM >>>

MAY 4 - 3:30 PM >>>

MAY 4 - 4:05 PM >>>

Stories from Fort McMurray

Four Nova Scotians who fled Fort McMurray share their heroic stories. YVETTE D'ENTREMONT AND OLIVIA CAREY METRO

'Scariest thing that I've ever seen in my life'

On the day his baby turned two weeks old, Brad Dicks found himself fearing for her life as he joined thousands of others stuck in gridlocked traffic trying to flee the Fort McMurray wildfire.

"When we left town we saw fire on both sides of the road. It was probably the scariest thing that I've ever seen in my life," the former Middle Sackville resident said in a telephone interview from Edmonton.

"I had my two dogs loaded in the truck too. (My wife and I) were just hoping that the people that opened the road we were on knew what they were doing. We were trusting them."

Dicks has worked as an elevator mechanic in Fort McMurray since December, 2014. He said he was nervous to get a radio call from a colleague on Tuesday telling him to call his wife because the fire was headed towards his Thickwood subdivision.

"I started heading back to town and when I got to town the smoke up where I live, it was like a perfect sunny day but...it was raining ash and

it was like the smoke was so thick it felt like I was in a foggy area," he recalled.

The five-hour journey to Edmonton took him a harrowing 10 hours that included running on almost no fuel for 33 km.

Dick doesn't know if his home was or will be spared by flames, but he expressed gratitude to emergency services personnel and is thankful his family is safe.

"Everything else can be replaced. I can't replace my family. That's all that matters to me," he said.



Former Middle Sackville resident Brad Dicks and his wife, Kristy and newborn baby Willow. FACEBOOK

'Everybody had one goal in mind and it was to survive this'

When Ryan Porter was evacuated from his Fort McMurray work camp, he was unprepared for the "horrifying" drive.

As he and his colleagues fled for safety, he said burnt out abandoned vehicles littered the shoulders of the road and fuel trucks drove along the shoulder trying to keep people fuelled.

"When daylight came we could see mothers with mascara running down their faces in cars next to us, people with family photos stacked up all over their dash boards, cats and dogs and even horses, crying confused children," he said in an interview on Wednesday while en route to safety in Fort Saskatchewan. The Lunenburg resident regularly travels between Nova Scotia and Fort McMurray for work and had been there for a month when the wildfire broke out. Despite the terror and confusion caused by the smoke, fire and gridlocked traffic as people tried to flee, Porter said he was amazed at the resilience of Fort McMurray residents as they pulled together.

"When our (work) camp started taking in residents (before it was evacuated), it was amazing to see that level of compassion between people that represent such a broad spectrum of race, religion, income and political stance," he said.



Ryan Porter FACEBOOK

'Flames and destruction'

After driving through the night from Fort McMurray, a sleep-deprived Caitlyn Rafuse said it was a challenge getting to their hotel in Edmonton.

"It was just really smoky, once you get closer south was (where) a lot of the bigger fires are, you could still see flames and destruction and it was pretty crazy," the 27-year-old Halifax native said in a phone interview on Wednesday afternoon.

Rafuse, who moved to Fort McMurray with her boyfriend for his work, said she couldn't remember a lot about the trip.

"I think people might have been running out of gas or something because they were just pulled over at the side of the road just waiting," she said.

With five of them in the car, Rafuse said the journey was exhausting for her boyfriend, his friend and his friend's wife and child.

"I think we're just all kind of like tired. A lot of us kind of fell asleep on the way."



The flames in Fort McMurray on Tuesday evening. CONTRIBUTED

'It was pretty terrifying'

Ronnie Milley left Fort McMurray in a hurry on Tuesday evening with just enough time to grab two suitcases, some documents and his boat. Raging wildfire forced Milley, his fiancée and his father to evacuate the region.

The family fled north. With only one way out of Fort McMurray, he said they faced intense gridlock.

"In the rear view mirror we could see smoke, flames and fire approaching behind us so it was pretty terrifying at that point," said the 24-year-old former Waverley resident.

The family stayed the night for a few hours of rest at Ruth Lake Lodge north of Fort McMurray before heading south to Edmonton, he said in an interview Wednesday.

Milley added he doesn't know what will happen until he finds out how the fire has affected his house and workplace.

"It's a little stressful, there's just a lot of unknowns at this point so we're waiting to find out," he said.



Ronnie Milley FACEBOOK

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EMERGENCY SERVICES

Volunteers ready to help out

Jeremy Mutton
For Metro | Halifax

As the massive forest fire that evacuated residents of Fort McMurray, Alta. rages on, Halifax residents are wondering how they can help.

"The only thing we're asking is if people want to donate financially," said Dan Bedell, communications director for the Canadian Red Cross in Atlantic Canada.

If you wish to donate to help with assistance, you can donate online at redcross.ca



The only thing we're asking is if people want to donate financially.

Dan Bedell, Canadian Red Cross

or call 1-800-418-1111. You can also text REDCROSS to 30333.

"Specify that it's for the Alberta fire, and that's where it'll go," Bedell said.

Those trying to make contact with loved ones should call the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo at 780-762-3636.

Bedell said Red Cross volunteers in the Maritimes are "waiting for the call" to get on a plane and head west.

"Some of that might start happening tomorrow," Bedell said, adding the Alberta Red Cross members will soon be

ASSISTANCE

Halifax Regional Municipality said Halifax Fire is offering emergency management commanders to assist if they are needed. These commanders are trained to coordinate emergency responders. So far, assistance has not been requested.

putting out a request stating the types of volunteers they require.

Volunteers from across the country will then chip in according to what they can offer.

"It all does happen really quickly," Bedell said.

Plan a 'lot' of trouble

CONTROVERSY

Proposal to raze homes for parking meets with protest

Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

A Halifax dealership planning to bulldoze homes to expand their parking lot says the project will complement the area — proving they "don't get it," said one resident.

Over a dozen people with the Homes Not Hondas movement met Wednesday evening at the Ecology Action Centre to express frustrations and make plans to protest the proposed Colonial Honda lot expansion that would see 20 properties demolished.

"This is a citywide issue. People from all over the peninsula have spoken out against this ... this is people that care about keeping Halifax a vibrant, livable city," said neighbour Chelsi Ferguson before the meeting.



The proposed design for the parking lot provided by Colonial Honda. CONTRIBUTED

In the past few months, Steele Auto Group has bought properties next to its Colonial Honda dealership on Robie Street, including on Fern Lane, North and McCully streets, according to a statement from the dealership Wednesday.

The statement said 14 of the 20 properties were already listed for sale, and were rental units with a high vacancy rate, with two being "owner-occupied."

Renderings released Wednesday "are mindful of the residential component of our neighborhood," and include green buffers to enhance the area and shrubs.

"If anything, we would hope that the design enhancements will complement the area. Some neighbours ... tell us our plans are an improvement over the existing condition of the properties that we have acquired," the dealership said.

Ferguson said she has no idea why the properties being rentals would be "relevant in any way," since renters contribute to the community just like homeowners, and the thought a parking lot is an improvement to any housing is "absurd."

"After all the ... outcry I'm surprised that they released those renderings thinking it's going to put people's minds at ease," Ferguson said. "They don't get it."

Longtime May Street resident Bonita Fraser said if the expansion is the "done deal" councilors say it is, she'd like to know how the dealership will protect her home during demolition of the building next door, since the frames are attached.

Demolition will likely bring rats, and Fraser said it's "not fair" if residents are stuck paying for pest control.

Fraser said the neighbours were told via email they would get information about the expansion when the development plan was approved by the city.

"What are we going to look at in our backyard? What am I going to hear and see?" Fraser said.

"We're up in the air."

ANTIGONISH

High-risk offender released: Police

Police are alerting Antigonish residents that a high-risk sex offender has been released into the community.

Gavin Sean Griffiths, 29, is a high-risk intensive supervision offender and repeat sex offender being monitored by the Ottawa Centre for Probation and Parole, according to a Nova Scotia RCMP.



Gavin Sean Griffiths

Griffiths indicated he was coming to Nova Scotia, and

RCMP are alerting residents in the Antigonish area in accordance with the Nova Scotia Release of High Risk Offender Information Protocol.

Griffiths has a record of criminal convictions dating back to 2005. Police said his victims have included adult women with whom he had no previous relationship.

Griffiths will be on probation for two years and required to follow conditions including restrictions on contact with several people, to not possess weapons, and to participate in counselling.

HALEY RYAN/METRO

CRIME

Four charged after home break-in, assault on teen

Four people from Moncton, N.B., face charges after a break-in to a Nova Scotia teen's home and assaulted her.

Just after 9 a.m. Tuesday, Cumberland District RCMP got a 911 call from River Hebert where a woman told police people were

breaking into her home. On their way, officers found the vehicles driven by the suspects and arrested two women, 18 and 21, a man, 20, and a 17-year-old. The 17-year-old victim told police the four assaulted her, and damaged her property.

She was not seriously injured and did not need medical treatment. METRO

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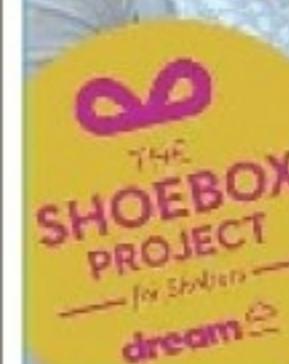
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U.S. ELECTION

Last GOP rivals withdraw before populist juggernaut

Donald Trump's last Republican foe, Ohio Gov. John Kasich, ended his quixotic presidential campaign Wednesday, cementing Trump's remarkable triumph as his party's presumptive nominee and launching him toward a likely fall battle with Hillary Clinton. Some reluctant Republicans began to rally around Trump, but others agonized over their party's future.

The billionaire businessman vowed to unite the splintered GOP, even as he was bitingly dismissive of members who have been critical of his campaign.

"Those people can go away and maybe come back in eight years after we served two terms," he said on NBC's Today show. "Honestly, there are some people I really don't want."

Clinton, in her first remarks since Trump's new status was crystallized, said she was more



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump is joined by his wife Melania, right, daughter Ivanka, left, and son Eric, background left, as he speaks during a primary night news conference on Tuesday. MARY ALTAFFER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

than prepared to handle the kind of deeply personal attacks that helped defeat Trump's Republican rivals.

"To me, this is the classic case of a blustering, bullying guy," the all-but-certain Democratic nominee told CNN.

The long and chaotic Republican primary came to an abrupt end after Trump's decisive vic-

tory Tuesday in Indiana. His win pushed Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, his closest rival, out of the race, with Kasich following on Wednesday.

"The people of our country changed me," Kasich said during an emotional speech announcing the end of his campaign. "They changed me with the stories of their lives."

Trump's takeover of the GOP

To me, this is the classic case of a blustering, bullying guy.
Hillary Clinton

marks one of the most stunning political feats in modern political history. A first-time candidate, he eschewed traditional fundraising and relied more on his own star power than television advertising to draw attention. He flouted political decorum with controversial statements about women and minorities, leaving some Republicans convinced he won't be able to cobble together the diverse coalition needed to win the general election.

"It's his party between now and November, but I don't think it's going to be his party after November," said Peter Wehner, a former adviser to President George W. Bush. Wehner is among the Republicans vowing to never vote for Trump, even if that means essentially handing Clinton the presidency.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EUROPEAN UNION

Turks offered mobility for refugee control

The European Union pressed ahead Wednesday with efforts to persuade Turkey to stop asylum seekers from reaching Europe and take back thousands more by offering Turkish citizens the prospect of visa-free travel within the bloc.

Mindful of Turkey's pivotal role in managing Europe's refugee crisis, the European Commission said Ankara has met all but five of the 72 criteria needed to end visa requirements. It invited member states and EU lawmakers to endorse the move by June 30, even though some conditions remain to be fulfilled.

"There is still work to be done as a matter of urgency, but if Turkey sustains the progress made, they can meet the remaining benchmarks," Commission Vice-President Frans Timmermans told reporters in Brussels.

Once endorsed, Turkish cit-

\$8.9 million

The aid package the European Union has offered Turkey for refugees and border control.

izens would be able to travel for 90 days without a visa to all EU member countries — except for Britain and Ireland, which have provisions for opting out of such policies — and four members of the Schengen passport-free travel area: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

The move is a central part of a package of incentives for Turkey — including up to 6 billion euros (\$8.9 billion) in aid for Syrian refugees and fast-track EU membership talks — to better police its borders, particularly in the Aegean Sea, so migrants can no longer reach Greece. Tens of thousands of people have crossed the sea from Turkey to Greece and then moved northward through the Balkans.

That deal has raised legal and ethical questions, as European nations unable to agree among themselves about how to handle the refugee emergency chose instead to outsource it to Turkey, where almost 3 million refugees are staying, most of them people fleeing war in Syria. It also comes as concern grows about Turkey's commitment to human rights and free speech amid a crackdown on the media and dissent.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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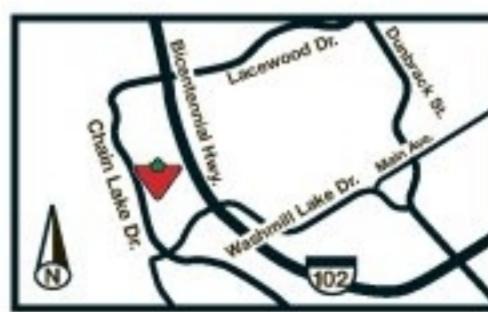
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RUSSELL WANGERSKY: WE'RE WITH YOU, FORT MCMURRAY



One thing you can say about our history of moving west for work? It stretches families far apart, but it weaves us together across a big country.

They're talking about Fort McMurray on the St. John's, N.L. Metrobus.

People don't usually talk much on the Metrobus, you understand. But they're talking today, and it's a conversation being heard across the Atlantic provinces, from Tim Hortons in Sydney to small towns in the Annapolis Valley. A simple trip online finds reporters from Newfoundland to Charlottetown to Halifax asking Atlantic Canadians in Alberta to get in touch.

The talk started Tuesday night with the first evacuation order in Fort McMurray. Social media lit up with first-hand tweets and Facebook posts about the fire. Soon, there was a complete evacuation, video showing the fire terrifyingly close, and people at this end of the country posting information about how to make telephone donations to the Red Cross.

On Wednesday, fire officials were watching the weather, expecting wind, and posting grim lists of the areas hardest hit by the advancing fire: "Beacon Hill — 80 per cent loss of homes; Timberlea — 12 trailers lost on McKinlay Cres."

For so many East Coast workers and their families, Fort McMurray is a long way west, but also the worksite next door.

The oilpatch may be slowing, but it's far from stopped: scores of Atlantic Canadians either travel there for work or have moved to the northern

Fort McMurray is far closer than geography suggests.

Alberta city, putting down roots. Some people (not completely glibly) call it Newfoundland and Labrador's second largest city. Cape Breton could say the same.

It's the great class equalizer on many East Coast flights: workers sometimes use their frequent flyer status to move up into first class, bringing baseball caps and work jackets into the rarefied land of Air Canada's Zone 1.

near as a nephew or niece.

At The Telegram in St. John's, the news editor re-posted Tweets in almost real-time from his nephews, their car turned around by a transformer explosion and forced north out of the city.

One of The Telegram's reporters used to work at Fort McMurray Today, the city's main newspaper; his daughter, born in the Alberta city, made her parents turn off the

sleep here in my bed."

In the office next to mine, an editor hasn't slept, following a friend's journey — husband, wife, seven-year-old twins and the family dog — north out of Fort McMurray, into huge highway gridlock, then south again, taking their chances along a previously closed highway, until there's a 1:30 a.m. post saying they are safely out of range of the fire: "We were 8 hrs in our car and finally made it out ... It's surreal to not know what exactly we are facing in the next few days."

One thing you can say about our history of moving west for work?

It stretches families far apart but it weaves us together across a big country, as well.

I remember, years ago, talking to a woman who ran a lounge in a small town on the southern tip of Newfoundland's Avalon Peninsula. The town was too small to keep the lounge running, so it was closed most of the time. We were in an airplane, heading west, but she'd flown east to open the lounge for a wake.

She lived in Fort McMurray, working as a manager in a hardware store. Her husband was driving a dump truck at Syncrude — her son, too. At the time, one daughter was working at a rape crisis centre, the other at a vet's office.

Every time there was a wedding or a funeral, she'd fly home to open the only lounge in the area.

There are ties that go both ways, regardless of the distance. And Fort Mac is on Eastern Canadian minds and lips today.

It also means that Fort McMurray is far closer than geography suggests.

And there's this exchange, posted on Facebook by my niece, recounting a conversation with her four-year-old about my niece's sister in Fort McMurray:

"Mommy what's going on?"
 "It's a fire, sweetheart."
 "Is Auntie Christina OK?"
 "Yes buddy."
 "Does she still have a bed?"
 "I don't think so, sweet pea."
 "It's OK mommy. She can



HANG IN THERE You don't have to tell people on the East Coast about the devastation in Alberta — the oilpatch is 'as near as a nephew or niece,' Russell Wangersky writes.

MICHAEL DE ADDER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Of course Alberta's wildfire is political. Everything is political.

Burnt-out cars, charred and flattened homes, air soft with smoke in a grey-hued sunrise. The fire had eaten much on its first terrible day, before growing ever wilder and uncontrolled.

"It was just like an apocalypse," one man told CBC Radio, of the walls of flame that lined the highways and kissed the treetops and the black inferno sky above Fort McMurray: the heart of the oilsands.

Until submerged in a fire of biblical proportions, Fort Mac had long functioned as a kind of shorthand for Alberta vs. Canada animosity. The place where bitumen was squeezed from sand, imagined and unvisited by most Canadians who nonetheless hold some opinion about our economic dependence on the oil industry and the threat of climate change.

(Never mind that Fort Mac runs on the work of average Canadians, the brains of the oilsands reside elsewhere.)

Local fire chief Darby Allen called it a "nasty, dirty" fire, adjectives uttered in the past to describe the belabored way oil companies extract their resource from the land, transforming it.

And that metaphor, of Fort McMurray as the heart of oilsands darkness, was on the minds of some as the fire broke: "I'm glad the #Fort-MacFire is happening in the

province most responsible for causing climate change that caused the fire in the first place," tweeted one Vancouver man, displaying gross callousness, even if many others had already, silently, seen a terrible irony.

Far more measured was Elizabeth May who, pressed by reporters, called it "a disaster that is very related to the global climate crisis," according to the National Observer.

Most perversely, some even accused a "disgusting" Alberta Premier Rachel Notley of using the fire to appear to care about an oil town in a display of crass opportunism.

The larger story, of course, has been national dismay at the unfolding tragedy and an unusually united amount of love flowing towards the oil rigs.

But wistful calls for everyone to set aside politics ring false. A wildfire may be indiscriminate, but people and places are always political. Inevitably, they taint events, and they will taint this, too.

Before it is satiated, the fire will devastate tens of thousands of people, and the miracle is that no one has died.

The politics is, as always, as you see it. As for any kind of reckoning, the most important is to come, when those forced to flee return to tally what is left of their lives.

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You are not what you do

INTERVIEW

Chasing a dream job becomes futile for character

Melita Kuburas
Metro | Canada



A friend and former colleague who works in journalism once explained her theory about the difference between a "dream job" and a "fantasy job."

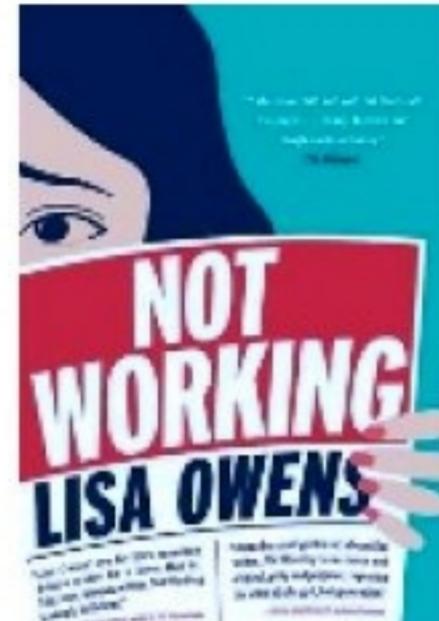
The dream job is attainable; it's something you work towards, she says. A fantasy job is what you wish you were doing when you're totally burnt out. (Hers was municipal parks worker. Mine? Marine biologist.)

But for many adults who don't have a defined career path, the dream job, too, might as well be imaginary.

That's the case in *Not Working*, the first novel from Lisa Owens, 30, in which the main character Claire Flannery quits a "creative communications" job she dislikes to figure out what she really wants to do.

Claire's time off is spent loitering in coffee shops, pressuring busy friends into just *one more* drink at the bar, and watching grotesque online videos.

"She has this grand idea that it's going to be this journey of self-discovery that she can direct, and that she can make



herself a better person. Instead it becomes this introspective time of inertia," says Owens.

Her character is smart but self-destructive — a lovable screwball with knack for pointed observation, even in a hung-over state.

"Did you not even get dressed?" asks Claire's boyfriend, a doctor, as he comes home to find her re-watching a clip of a sperm whale being dissected. By this point, she has given up on *Ulysses*.

The idea for the story was partly influenced by a stretch of time off Owens had in between jobs a few years ago.

"I was going to go to all these art galleries and do all of this cultural stuff," says Owens. In reality, she watched a lot of TV and met friends for lunch, which wasn't fun because unlike her, they were busy.

"I was very much aware that everyone else I knew was working on a different clock. If I

hadn't had a job to go back to, how would that have felt?" she says, of how the idea formed.

One impact of this idleness on Claire is anxiety — she inspects every mole with the same suspicion she applies to her well-meaning boyfriend's attempt at words of encouragement.

Without a job and daily routine, everything else suddenly starts to come into question, says Owens, and they do for Claire. Should she be going to the gym more? Is it too late to have children? Does she even like living in London?

The character is in her late twenties, though her exact age is never specified in the book. She's relatable to anyone who has ever dreaded the question "So what do you do?" at a party.

"I think there's a certain pressure on my generation to think that you should feel like, this amazing sense of fulfillment in your day job and I think it can actually be quite dangerous and quite tough ... on people like Claire, who don't really know what that is," says Owens.

The danger, she adds, is they may feel like they're wasting away their potential by working a job that's just a 9 to 5.

"So that was definitely something I wanted to challenge — that idea that 'oh, you should just be absolutely loving everything you do.'"

Chasing a dream job, then, is probably a waste of time — it doesn't necessarily exist, says Owens.



There is a lot of pressure on her generation to find that "dream job," even though that ideal 9-to-5 doesn't exist, says author **Lisa Owens, 30**. COURTESY ALEXANDER JAMES



The Good Witch has Cassie Nightingale smiling enigmatically — a lot. CONTRIBUTED



JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Good Witch is a dangerous treacle

THE SHOW: *Good Witch*, Season 2, Episode 2 (W)
THE MOMENT: Cassie's advice

Cassie Nightingale (Catherine Bell), who magically sells customers whatever they need, is training a new salesgirl in her store (or rather, shoppe). Bell Book and Candle — located on Main Street in Middleton, USA, where it's always Christmas or Halloween. The salesgirl had some accident with her hands, which prevents her from pur-

suing her dream job. (Or something like that. I might have dozed off. Trust me, it doesn't matter.)

"How can I help?" the salesgirl asks.

"Oh, there's always something to be done at the Bell Book and Candle," Cassie says, smiling enigmatically.

Sure enough, the salesgirl solders a glass box. She's cured!

I have to apologize to the women of North America. I knew you were tired, but I didn't know you were this

tired. The only reason anyone could watch this show is that they're so stressed, they need this tranquilizer in television form.

Every moment of the series is the same moment, engineered to lull viewers into a Chardonnay coma: Somebody asks Cassie what he/she should do, and she smiles enigmatically (her sole expression, because her face is frozen stiff).

I actually worry about *Good Witch* falling into the wrong hands — this is some weapons-

grade treacle. Vladimir Putin could become the showrunner, bore us into submissive somnolence, and take over Canada while we nap.

So if you're ever on the subway home thinking, "I'm so wrung out, maybe I'll watch *Good Witch*," call me instead and I'll come brush your hair. No one should be this tired.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

Stories of the variety store

DEBUT NOVEL

Author sheds light on Korean immigrant experience

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada



Author Ann Choi captures the shrinking generation of Korean variety-store owners in her debut novel, *Kay's Lucky Coin Variety*. HANDOUT

Sometimes it takes a little push from an unlikely place to fulfil a personal dream. For Ann Choi, a guidance counsellor at a Toronto high school, it came in 2007 when she asked a struggling student what he wanted to do with his life. He responded by asking her the same question right back. Not wanting to be a hypocrite, Choi answered quickly. After all, she knew exactly what she wanted: to write a book.

"That night I went home and did a lot of soul searching and from that moment on, I committed to writing," she says.

Choi also knew exactly what she wanted to write. Since the early 1990s, she had been holding onto story ideas about the Korean immigrant experience, specifically those of young women who felt torn between the demands of their parents and the desire to be a "typical" Canadian teenager. As a sociology major at University of Toronto, she had worked on a project interviewing Korean-Canadian women and discovered many shared a similar narrative. "There was a lot of frustration with cultural expectations and the immigrant dream," Choi says. "And a lot of frustration with our mothers. We felt a sense of burden because 90 per cent or more of our parents were variety-store owners."

A composite of those women, and her own life, became the inspiration for Mary — or Yu-Rhee — the protagonist of Choi's debut novel, *Kay's Lucky Coin Variety*, published by Simon & Schuster Canada. Mary, who lives above her parents' convenience

store, struggles with hormonally charged teenage emotions and experiences, but still must act like an adult, knowing very well that her first priority is always to her family's business and livelihood — as her mother never lets her forget.

"When other kids got to hang out at the mall after school, most of us were stamping packages of instant soup or working the cash register," Choi says.

For those in the community, *Kay's Lucky Coin Variety* will resonate in its accuracy and details, but for those who only head into their local convenience stores for milk and newspapers, the book is a revealing look into private lives. "While most everyone knows a Korean shopkeeper, most people won't know about the story behind the counter," says Choi.

For Mary's family — and

When other kids got to hang out at the mall after school, most of us were stamping packages of instant soup or working the cash register Ann Choi

JUDY BLUME

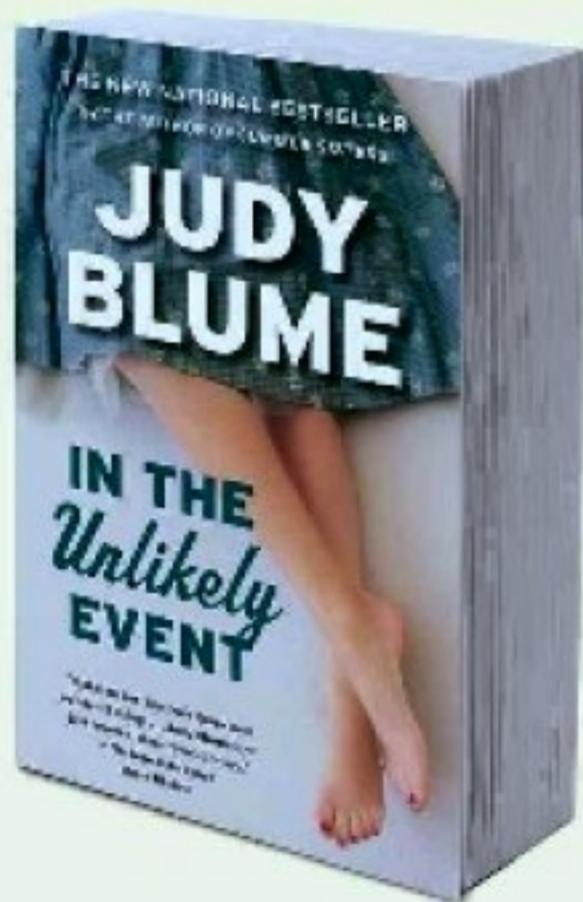
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IN THE Unlikely EVENT

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From punchline to real person

CRIME

Former O.J. Simpson prosecutor now an author

In the televised "15-month nightmare" that was the O.J. Simpson trial, Marcia Clark woke up beaten. "I was just so burnt out. I was emotionally depleted, physically depleted," says the former prosecutor. "I couldn't even conceive of walking back into the courtroom."

She became a kind of punchline, the lawyer who bungled the Trial of the Century, a perceived slam dunk out of the gate. From Saturday Night Live skits in the 1990s to a Tina Fey parody on Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt last year, Clark was a long-running joke.

But in 2016, more than 20 years later, she's newly venerated, much in thanks to the FX miniseries depicting her courtroom nightmare: American Crime Story, in which actress Sarah Paulson played the former prosecutor to much acclaim, including Clark's. "We are now



Marcia Clark, former O.J. Simpson prosecutor, has a new book out called *Blood Defense*, the same year that FX miniseries *American Crime Story* brought the Trial of the Century back into the spotlight. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

understood more like real people instead of cartoons," says Clark, who credits the popular series for adding "more layers" to her media portrayal, going behind the scenes with her and legal partner Chris Darden, whom she calls her "rock" during the trial.

"Whenever there's a major

public event that gets covered for a period of time everybody kind of winds up being caricatured. That happened to all of us, too."

The anthology series ended its first season in April, but the year is just beginning for Clark, who has become a successful crime novelist. Her latest is called

Blood Defense and follows a criminal defence lawyer handling a high-profile double-murder case, which Clark knows a thing or two about.

The O.J. Simpson trial began in 1994 after the murders of Simpson's ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and waiter Ron Goldman.

Simpson was acquitted of all charges after a defence team led by Johnnie Cochran presented the argument he'd been framed by a racist LAPD, a strategy that many feel distracted from the victims.

"Ron and Nicole were the only two words not spoken in that trial," says Clark.

Dubbed the "Trial of the Century," it was one of the most publicized trials in American history and high profile was what Clark had always wanted as part of the Special Trials Unit in the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. "High profile meant that maybe a reporter showed up at the arraignment. Your picture was never taken. They barely got your name right if they mentioned your name at all: that was high profile," she says.

But for Clark on the O.J. trial, high profile meant public scrutiny. Naturally, watching the show brought on a "weird mix of emotions," she says. "It's very

difficult to go back and remember everything. It digs up all the memories; the pain and the sadness, and the sense of futility that we felt for the whole tenancy of the case."

She'll be reminded again in June, when CTV and ESPN air a new documentary called *O.J.: Made in America*.

But a silver lining for the formerly misunderstood attorney is that she's become a kind of millennial idol with the FX series. Many of the show's viewers were in diapers when the trial made headlines. They're watching with a different, "much hipper" perspective than their parents, Clark has noticed.

As for the man at the centre of her televised nightmare two decades ago, Simpson is in prison on unrelated charges and is eligible for parole in 2017.

Is there any doubt in Clark's mind that he committed those murders in 1994? "How could there be any?" she asks. "None."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

We are now understood more like real people instead of cartoons.

Marcia Clark

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THE MANY FACES OF MARCIA CLARK



The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story

The Ryan Murphy-produced anthology series starred Sarah Paulson (American Horror Story) as Clark. Her performance was critically lauded and more sentimental than earlier portrayals.



Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt

The Netflix series brought on co-creator Tina Fey and comedian Jerry Minor for three episodes as Clark and Chris Darden in harsh portrayals as buffoons.



Saturday Night Live

Always poised to tackle current events, SNL parodied the trial in the '90s, featuring comedians Laura Kightlinger and Nancy Carell (née Walls).

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

THE TOP 6@6

LAST NIGHT ON 101.3 THE BOUNCE:

- 6 The Chainsmokers ft. Daya
Don't Let Me Down
- 5 Magic! ft. Sean Paul
Lay You Down Easy
- 4 Justin Bieber
Company
- 3 DJ Snake ft. Bipolar Sunshine
Middle
- 2 Rihanna
Kiss It Better
- 1 Drake ft. Whizkid and Kyla
One Dance



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The gift of her

Henrietta Walmark

An annual ritual I share with my ex-husband amuses our daughter, Sofia. On Mother's Day, he thanks me for the gift of her. And I reciprocate on Father's Day. Best thing we ever did, her father and I say to one another in earnest, to eye rolls from the object of our affection.

Sofia was 10 when her dad and I split up, but the tradition of gratitude continued with the three of us gathering for Mother's Day brunches at a local restaurant, a favourite place where we celebrated family occasions and milestones until her father moved to Indonesia six years ago.

Being Sofia's 'mum' — a British-ism acquired honestly from her very English granny — has meant having an ongoing and affectionate relationship with her dad.

That she thanks us for setting an example of mutual respect is more satisfying than any gift or a decadent meal. Which is just as well, as she is 1,400 km away studying at university and we won't be seeing each other

“
Trying to keep up with her fierce intelligence and wild streak has reshaped my life. This Mother's Day, I'll celebrate the great adventure of being her mum.

for Mother's Day this year.

Still our mother-daughter connection runs deep. I was invited to her over-the-top 30th birthday bash last month where all the other guests were 20-something. I had a blast. The party pushed me out of my comfort zone, like so many experiences we've shared.

I ventured into new neighbourhoods and venues at all hours when teenage Sofia's plans went awry. She still apologizes to me for those particularly challenging years.

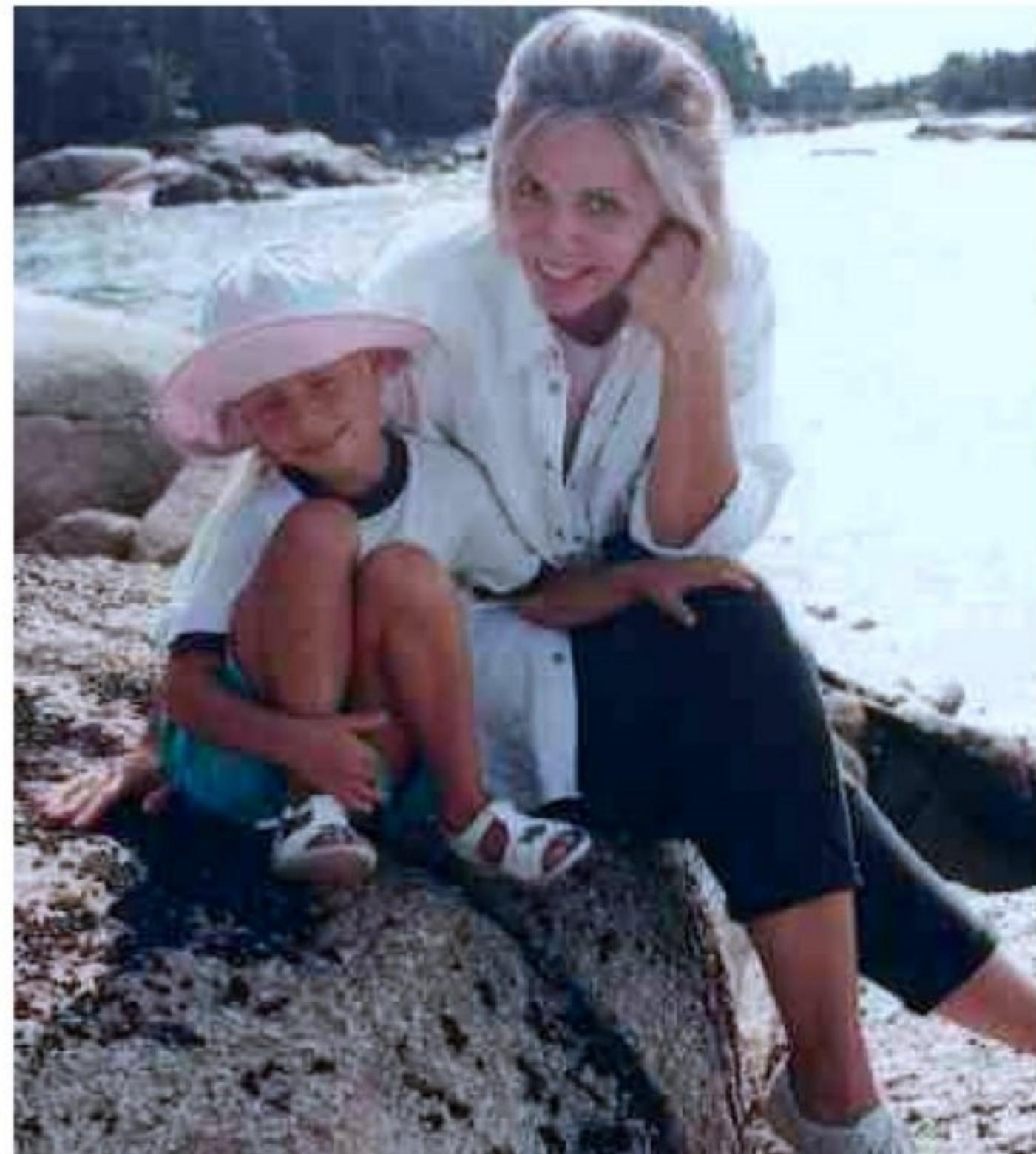
She introduced arty me to the beauty of pure mathematics and physics, which is what you might expect

from a kid who has Euler's equation inked on the inside of her wrist.

Thanks to Sofia, I was no bourgeois soccer mom; I was a circus mom. After several years on the sidelines watching as my preteen daughter mastered flying trapeze, I was coaxed into trying it myself and then kept at it for eight years.

Trying to keep up with her fierce intelligence and wild streak has reshaped my life. This Mother's Day, I'll celebrate the great adventure of being her mum. I'll mourn a second pregnancy that ended in miscarriage. I'll think of friends who long for a child yet can't conceive, and of those who have lost their mothers. I'll remember the deep affection I shared with my former mother-in-law and her long-time companion. I'll recall last year's sweet and unexpected Mother's Day call from my former son-in-law. And I'll spend the day with my amazing mom.

Oh, and I'll be waiting to hear from Sofia's dad. I'll smile to think of Sofia rolling her eyes even though she won't be here when he thanks me yet again for the gift of her.



Henrietta Walmark with daughter Sofia — then 5, now 30 — in Maine together in 1991. CONTRIBUTED

Something a little unexpected

You've given her the tulips, a big box of chocolates, you've even wrapped up some bath salts, body wash or scented soaps. All lovely sentiments for Mother's Day. This year you're looking to give something more unique and a little unexpected. Astrid Van Den Broek shares some ideas.



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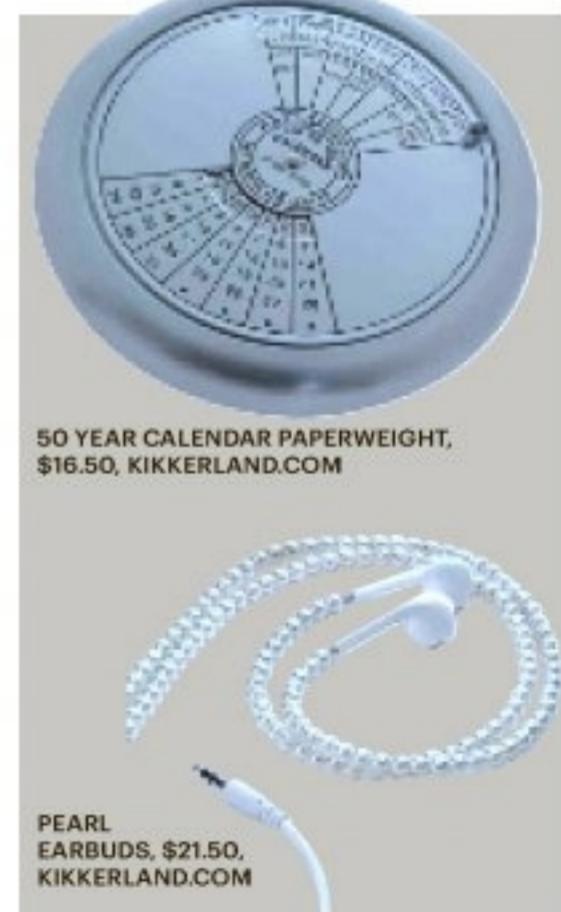
SWALLOW RING HOLDER, HEAD AND TAIL, \$19/EACH, ART GALLERY OF ONTARIO, SHOPAGO.NET



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Something for new moms: a break

GIFTS

What most new moms really want is gratitude, and some time off

Kristen Thompson

I barely remember my first Mother's Day.

I was four weeks into my new gig as a mom, walking around in a fog, exhausted and overwhelmed. Then one little ribbon-wrapped box from my husband turned that all around. Inside was a silver necklace with a circle pendant. On one side was my daughter's name, on the other side her birthdate. Simple, thoughtful, and heartwarming.

There's something unforgettable about the perfect gesture of love and thanks. And that can be hard to narrow down for new moms or moms-to-be, because there hasn't been much time to establish family

traditions, and the kids aren't old enough to give their own glue-drenched creations.

There are unlimited gift ideas for new mamas — from hand vacuums to meal delivery services, bottles of wine and pedicure gift certificates. But at the end of the day, what most really want is gratitude, and a break.

I don't mean let them have a 20-minute shower with the door locked. I mean pack those rugrats up and get them out of the house. Before you leave,

exhausted most of the time, so a relaxing day and a little pampering would be fantastic," she said. "Breakfast in bed comes to mind."

"My husband came home last week with a framed photo of me and our daughter. I was so touched I burst into tears. Amid the exhaustion and the emotions, it was such a thoughtful gesture. I think that is a great gift idea."

Jayne Selazek, 32, is due with her first baby in the beginning of June and says the most meaningful way to be celebrated is to make time together as a family.

"Gifts aren't a huge deal, so there shouldn't be a lot of pressure to give them."

But if (someone's) husband wanted to give something, I would suggest something simple (like) a ... spa day. Or do something that has been on the to-do list forever. Gifts that are simple, but appreciated."

Sara Ehrhardt, a first time mom to an 11-month-old son, said the best thing spouses can for Mother's Day is listen to cues from their partners.

"For me (the perfect gift is) something to make the family

That's what Toronto mom Karen Leslie is hoping for.

"What I want for Mother's Day is not a grand gesture or expensive gift, but some time," she said. "Even an hour not being asked for (something). Just time to be responsible for no one, just my own needs, a bit of time to recharge."

Sudbury mom Emma Dunkley Elliott, who had her first baby in April, agrees.

"As a new mom, I'm pretty



Kristen Thompson will be celebrating Mother's Day her two daughters, Isla, 3, and Polly, now seven months. **CONTRIBUTED**

function better. For others, it may be something that makes them feel less like a mom and more like a woman," she said.

"Moms can feel lonely those first years (and they) receive very little feedback while mothering babies. So ... a day to be

recognized feels nice."

New motherhood is different for anyone, but one universal truth is that it can feel exhausting and thankless. We spend so much time doing things for our little ones, it leaves very little time to look after ourselves.

So as much as we love presents, what we really need is a break, we need someone to cater to our needs, and we need to hear the words "You amaze me." And lots and lots of cuddles from the kids. Don't forget the cuddles.

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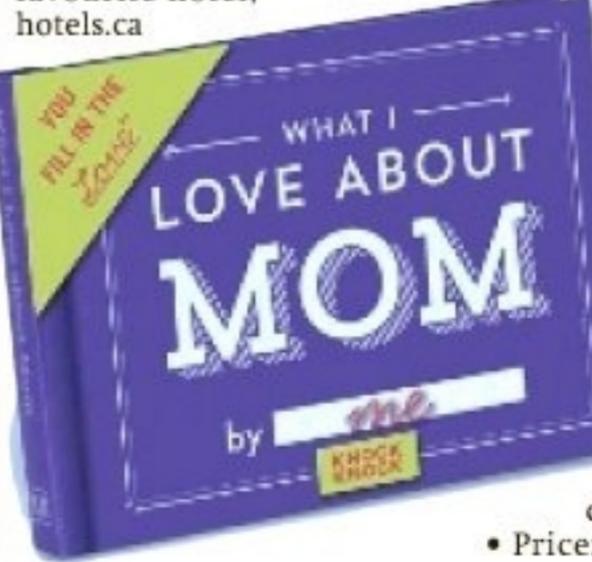
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Gift ideas for new moms

A night at a hotel

Hands down, what most want for Mother's Day is alone time. You could just take the kids out of the house for a couple hours. Or you could seriously step up your game by sending her to a hotel for the night. Many hotels offer packages that include wine and chocolate in the room, and breakfast in the morning. Bonus points for choosing one that offers spa services. Start your search at hotels.ca, which has last minute Mother's Day deals.

- Price: As low as \$150
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What I Love About My Mom book

Just because the kids are too little to tell mom how much they appreciate her doesn't mean you can't do it for them. This little book contains fill-in-the-blank lines to describe why mom's the best. Fill it in on behalf of the kids, and it's sure to warm her heart.

- Price: \$12
- Available at Indigo stores, indigo.ca.

Personalized pendant necklace

A popular gift item for moms is a charm necklace with engravings of kids' names, initials or finger prints. Kate Spade has a beautiful charm necklace that allows you to engrave an initial on one side, and a small message on the back — like a child's birth dates.

- Price: \$64

- Available at The Bay, thebay.com.

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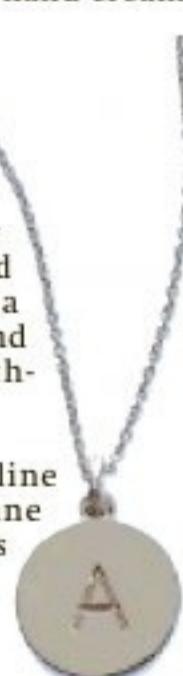
Aside from alone time, most moms say they want to feel pampered for Mother's Day. Allow her to feel pampered and relaxed from the comfort of her home with a lavender gift set from



L'Occitane, which includes foaming bath, hand cream, soap, a perfumed sachet and a scented candle.

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Mother's strength helps Olympian

Vawn Himmelsbach

Rosie MacLennan always wanted to be an Olympian. And, after winning Canada's only gold medal at the 2012 Olympics in London for women's trampoline, she reached a new personal best for her final routine. But, on the road to Rio, which kicks off Aug. 3, she had a setback: a concussion that left her unable to do what she loves most.

Rosie has always relied on her mother, Jane, for emotional support, but perhaps never as much as the past year — making this Mother's Day particularly poignant. "She's definitely been a source of strength in times where there's been uncertainties," she said.

Her mother wasn't there when she fell. And Rosie didn't think to mention it — after all, it wasn't a big fall. But then the headaches started to come, along with dizziness. "When you flip 20 feet into the air, that isn't ideal," said Rosie.

But it was the emotional issues that were harder to deal with — she didn't know when, or if, she would jump again. "I had no idea if I would be

back in time to compete at the World's," she said, which is the one and only chance to qualify for the Olympics.

"I was having panic attacks just because of the uncertainty," said Rosie. "Talking to my mom, she kept me grounded and kept me focused on my recovery, teaching me [that] life will go on no matter what happens." After losing five months of training, she now has a clear bill of health and is heading to Rio.

"Every mother worries about potential injury and the long-term impact on their life," said Jane. "It's a mother's job to internalize your worry and focus on solutions, to teach patience and help set priorities in the long term."

She has a lifetime of experience internalizing those worries. Years ago, when Rosie was a child, the two were in a car accident. Fortunately, no one was hurt, but the car was totalled. In that moment, the first thing Jane thought of was her daughter — and she immediately tried to create a sense of calm while waiting for paramedics to arrive at the scene.

That's also her job whenever Rosie competes. It's hard for her to watch her daughter

jumping so high up in the air. "I'm glad she's still on the trampoline when she finishes," she said. "I'm told I jump every time she does."

But she manages to do a good job of creating a sense of calm, because Rosie doesn't pick up on those nerves.

Rosie, who began competing internationally at the age of 11, won the Canadian National Women's Championships in 2005, 2009 and 2011. At the 2008 Beijing Olympics, she finished in 7th place, and went on to win a gold medal at the 2011 Pan Am Games in Mexico and second place at the 2011 Trampoline World Championships in Birmingham.

But at the 2012 Olympics in London, the pressure was on.

There were 17,000 people in the crowd and Rosie had no idea where her family was sitting. She was going over her routine in her head, when she happened to look up and see her mom in the crowd of thousands.

"I remember the instant change — I instantly felt lighter," said Rosie. "When I looked at her face, it was instant peace of mind. It gave me confidence and it reminded me I was doing what I loved." She went on to win gold.



Olympian Rosie MacLennan, right, with her mom Jane. CONTRIBUTED



The off-season is a perfect, and more affordable, time to explore Havana, Cuba. CUBA TOURISM



On Mother's Day, destination spas see a significant number of guests who are mothers and daughters. COURTESY OF ST. ANNES SPA

What mom wants most: memories

Vawn Himmelsbach

Sure, flowers and chocolates are nice, but what do moms really want this Mother's Day? A survey by Ebates found that 63 per cent of moms want to spend quality time with their family this Mother's Day, while one-third say they'd like a spa day. And take note: a whopping 94 per cent say they absolutely do not want a gym membership.

Whether a spa day, weekend retreat or last-minute trip, a getaway with mom isn't just about giving her some much-needed time off; it also provides bonding time with family away from the pressures of everyday life.

Judi Oracheski, owner of Gypsy Group Travel Inc. in Halifax, says she's had quite a few moms and daughters (as well as sisters) book getaways to Las Vegas, since it's an ideal destination for shopping and shows, and easily accessible from most of Canada. With a seat sale or hotel promo, a Vegas getaway

can also be reasonably priced, she said.

And in May, there are typically last-minute deals to Caribbean isles such as the Dominican Republic and Cuba, as those destinations head into their off-season.

Other getaways can be tailored to mom's interests, such as theatre, arts or music. Oracheski booked a mother and daughter on a Broadway-themed trip to New York City, for example, which included tickets to *Wicked* and *Mamma Mia*.

But you don't have to leave the country to get away. "My mom and I did a three-night getaway to Quebec City once," said Oracheski. "We stayed in the Chateau Frontenac and felt like royalty. It was awesome!"

At Ste. Anne's Spa in Grafton, Ont., a significant number of guests are mothers and daughters. "However, we certainly do see an increase in the month of May," said Wanda Hoehn, the spa's director of sales and marketing. She's also seeing more multi-generational visits, with daughter, mother and grand-

mother.

"At a place like ours, there are really no outside distractions like phones or work and family pressures," said Hoehn. "You have the opportunity for such quality one-on-one time here, all the while enjoying soothing spa treatments, comforting cuisine and beautiful surroundings. When you are in a state of true relaxation, I think the most genuine bonding happens."

For the month of May, Ste. Anne's Spa is offering an overnight getaway that includes its popular 'maple showers' treatment (and spas across Canada are offering various Mother's Day specials and promos).

For Mother's Day, though, Hoehn recommends purchasing a gift certificate for two.

"I always think a spa retreat together is the best gift that you can give," said Hoehn, "as not only do you give the gift of relaxation, which all of us need regularly, but you give the gift of time with you — which invariably moms will cherish the most."

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Tech mom out for Mother's Day

GADGET GIFTS

Seven great gadget gift ideas to keep her connected

Marc Saltzman

Chocolates are sweet and flowers are thoughtful, but given the fact geek is the new chic, why not pick up mom a gadgety gift for Mother's Day?

After all, today's busy moms could probably use a high-tech hand while on the go, whether it's to stay organized, entertained or in touch with those who matter.

And unlike a spa treatment, a tech toy lasts more than an hour.

If you need some suggestions



for Sunday, May 8, the following are some gadget gift ideas — ranging in price from \$59 to \$549.

For the workaholic

Can't decide whether mom could benefit from a laptop or tablet? You don't need to choose with the Dell Inspiron 11 3000 (from \$499.99), a versatile two-in-one that transforms from one mode to another. When you no longer need a keyboard and trackpad, simply bend back the 11-inch screen 360 degrees and use your fingertips on the touchscreen to swipe through movies, TV shows, ebooks, games, and photos. Powered by a 6th Gen Intel Core processor, this hybrid also enjoys long battery life of up to seven hours between charges.

For the bookworm

"Books are a uniquely portable magic," said Stephen King — and you can give the gift of magic with an ebook reader for avid readers. In fact, the Kobo Aura H2O (\$179) is the first premium waterproof ereader, so it can be brought into the tub, by the pool, or to the

beach. The anti-glare e-ink screen can be read clearly in bright sunlight, or take advantage of the integrated light to read while curled up in bed, rather than disturbing a sleepy partner with a night table lamp.

The Kobo eBookstore features more than four million titles, plus you can borrow ebooks for free from your local library. Battery life lasts tops two months between charges.

For creative types

Whether mom's a budding photographer, artist, writer or scrap-booker, the Epson Expression ET-2550 EcoTank All-in-One (\$399) lets you print for up to two years before you need to refill the ink tanks. Yes, you read that correctly. This Wi-Fi-enabled printer/scanner/copier has an ink yield of 4,000 black and 6,500 colour prints, and can print up to 9.2 pages per minute for black and 4.5 pages for colour. And when it's time to replace the ink, each bottle only costs \$18 per colour.



For the coffee lover

How nice would it be to wake up, reach for your phone or tablet and tap an app that tells your coffee machine to make you that perfect cup of Jo?

It's possible with the Nespresso OriginalLine Prodigio (from \$269), the first smartphone-connected machine from the Swiss company. Using Bluetooth technology, the machine seamlessly links with the Nespresso app to allow you to prepare coffee remotely with just a few taps, plus it also helps with capsule stock management, brewing schedules, maintenance alerts, and more.

For fitness fanatics

If you think your exercise-loving mom would appreciate a more comprehensive fitness tracker than what she's using now, HTC and Under Armour have partnered to create UA HealthBox (\$549), a connected health system that tracks and manages your activity, fitness,



sleep, and nutrition.

In the box you get a wearable UA Band (for the wrist), a UA Heart Rate monitor (with chest strap), and a smart UA Scale (measuring weight and body fat) — all of which connect wirelessly to the UA Record companion app for Android or Apple iOS.

Each device sends data to your device, illustrated on a dashboard within the app, plus you're provided with information and motivation to help achieve fitness and health goals.

For the 'socially connected' mom

Mom may want a smartwatch, but she doesn't want to sacrifice style for functionality. Engineered by HP, the Isaac Mizrahi Smartwatch (\$299.99) is available in two Swarovski Crystal-outlined faces in silver and gold-tone stainless steel, and the leather strap is available in five interchangeable colours. Compatible with both iOS and Android phones, this classic watch may have an classic analog face, but



it shows message notifications (calls, texts, emails), real-time calendar alerts, social media updates, pedometer and other fitness info, and much more.

For mom with a green thumb

Newsflash: Bluetooth can help your green thumb. The Parrot Flower Power Wireless Plant Sensor (\$59.95) is a smart gardening gadget capable of assessing your plants' needs and sends alerts to your smartphone. Simply insert this doohickey into the soil and let its four sensors do the work.

Then look at the accompanying iOS or Android app for real-time info related to sunlight exposure, soil moisture, temperature, humidity and drainage.

1 Epson Expression ET-2550 EcoTank All-in-One, \$399.

2 Isaac Mizrahi Smartwatch, \$299.99.

3 Dell Inspiron 11 3000, from \$499.99.

4 Nespresso OriginalLine Prodigio, from \$269.

5 UA HealthBox, \$549.

No, she doesn't have everything

BEAUTY

Some products that'll make mom happy this year

Janine Falcon

Beauty BFF Universally flattering with a mix of matte, satin and velvety finishes, the new Charlotte Tilbury Instant Look in a Palette is such a gorgeous compact for eyes, cheeks and face that you'll want one for yourself, too. \$85 at Holt Renfrew, holtrenfrew.com.

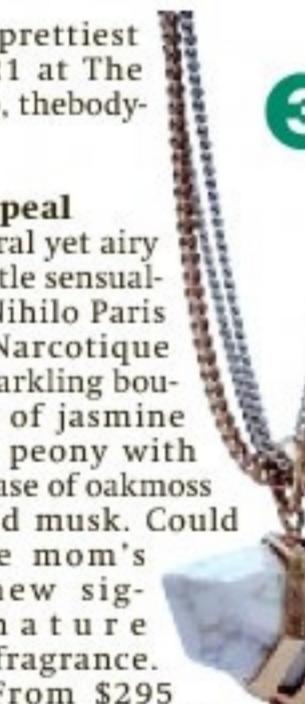


Face On

The genius Demarché Labs Roloxin Lift Instant Skin Smoothing Masque is so good at delivering on its promise — all day! — that you should get the 30-mask kit for each of you. They're that good. From \$59 for 5 masks, Sephora, sephora.ca.

Power Wash

A Clarisonic's cleansing power is in the way it super-swishes water



Natural Wonder

If mom's into natural skincare, Sahajan skincare takes the concept to another level with innovative formulas that incorporate a modern take on traditional Ayurvedic remedies. Discovery Kit, \$70 at sahajan.com and well.ca.

Happy Hour A playful watch like the colourful Swatch Only For You model — it comes



with a matching brooch embedded in the box — gives keeping time a cheerful twist. \$90, swatch.com for retailers.

Loving Trinkets

Kudos to Indigo of oregano for high-

lighting Jenny Bird and Biko, Canadian jewelry lines by designers known for their unique, edgy aesthetic.

We love the Jenny Bird x Indigo Abundance Pendant Necklace Clear Stone for Mom. \$75 at Indigo, indigo.ca.

Kisses and Smiles Longtime sponsor Caryl Baker Visage has partnered with the Starlight Children's Foun-



tions.

Charm Candy

A delightful art-deco-esque Alex and Ani Luna Moth Bangle is just the thing to add to mom's collection — or get her started. \$38, alexandani.com for retailers.

Polish Perfection



Warning: giving mom a Guerlain La Petite Robe Noire Deliciously Shiny Nail Colour may spoil her for all others. Truth: the superb luxury formula, excellent brush and gorgeous hues put most others in the shade. \$27, Guerlain counters and boutiques.

Waiting to Inhale

With a Saje Natural Wellness AromaGem Nebulizer and her favourite essential oils, Mom can turn any room into a fresh-air sanctuary. \$69.95, saje.ca for retailers.

1 Saje Natural Wellness AromaGem Nebulizer, \$69.95, saje.ca

2 Swatch Only For You model, \$90, swatch.com

3 Jenny Bird and Biko, Canadian jewelry lines, Stone for Mom. \$75 at Indigo

4 Ex Nihilo Fleur Narcotique, from \$295 at Saks Fifth Avenue

5 Charlotte Tilbury Instant Look in a Palette, \$85 at Holt Renfrew, holtrenfrew.com

6 The Body Shop British Rose collection, \$21 at The Body Shop, thebodyshop.ca



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Your essential daily news

Fiberglass igloos being used by Hawaiian church as form of non-profit housing

FRIESIAN PLACE



CONTRIBUTED

Project overview

Tenants are now moving into Friesian Place which offers spacious rental units with beautiful finishes. The units come with five stainless-steel appliances, granite counter tops and vanities, and walk-in showers.

Housing amenities

Friesian Place has open-concept floor plans, air-conditioned units with tile and laminate flooring throughout. Heat, hot water and underground parking are included. The adjoining Clubhouse has a large common room, games room, theatre and fitness centre.

Location and transit

Located at 49 Friesian Court, Friesian Place has easy access to Highway 102. It's adjacent to Hemlock Square Shopping Plaza and is on a Metro transit bus route.

In the neighbourhood

Friesian Place is within walking distance to grocery and liquor stores, banks, pharmacies, health providers, salons, a fitness club, restaurants, coffee shops and more. Plus there are tennis courts, a soccer field and playgrounds nearby.



NEED TO KNOW

What: Friesian Place
Developer: J2K Properties Ltd.

Builder: J2K Properties Ltd.
Location: 49 Friesian Court
Pricing: \$1,050 - \$1,950/month

Suites: Several layouts available including one bedroom, and three bedrooms plus

den.
Status: 135 units out of 150 are leased.

Sales Centre: 49 Friesian Court

Phone and website: Donna Burgess 902.292.7100 j2kproperties.ca leasing@j2kproperties.ca

CRAFTING

DIY heirloom tea towels for Mother's Day

Pretty tea towels are a useful addition to any kitchen and are extra special when printed with cherished family recipes.

Turn treasured recipes into thoughtful keepsake gifts perfect for Mother's Day using iron-on transfers.

Raid your family's recipe box for that treasured recipe to make these gorgeous towels.

Then wrap them up with baker's twine with a special cookbook and you've created a unique gift.

Step 1: Gather and shop for the supplies

You will need:

- A cotton or linen tea towel
- Iron-on transfers for light-coloured fabric
- Handwritten recipe
- Iron (you don't need a steam setting)
- A scanner, computer and printer

REMEMBER
Ensure that you "mirror" or "flip" the image so that it prints backwards and the recipe can be read.

Step 2: Choose a

recipe and scan it into a computer

Scan the recipe. We scanned the image in colour and again in black and white. Alter the image using image software if you like.

Step 3: Print it out
Before selecting the image to be printed ensure that you remember to "mirror" or "flip" the image so that it prints backwards. When you iron it onto the fabric it will appear the

correct way. Print the image onto the transfer paper according to the manufacturer's directions.

Step 4: Trim the printed design

If desired, trim the printed design, leaving approximately 1 inch (2.5 centimetres) around the printed area.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Step 5: Place and iron the design onto the tea towel
Place the printed design print side down onto the fabric. Iron the design on to the

Writing out a recipe in your own writing, even if you got it from a cookbook, gives the tea towels a personal touch. DEBRA NORTON/FOR TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



First-time homebuyers tips

Plan ahead, expect the unexpected, says real-estate expert

Buying your first home is an emotional time. The entire process of viewings, making offers and finally getting the keys is full of excitement, fear and anticipation. First-time homebuyers — or “property virgins,” as they were called on the hit HGTV show — have a lot to learn as they navigate the real-estate waters for the first time. Erica Nielsen, VP of Home Equity Financing at RBC, offers five pieces of wisdom to help buy with confidence:

1. Know what you can afford

Many first-time buyers start their home search by asking what neighbourhood they want to live in. “This can lead to disappointment,” says Nielsen. “They get their heart set on a certain neighbourhood and then find out they cannot afford it.” Be realistic about what you can afford and look for homes within that price range.

2. Consider the hidden costs

There's more to the cost of owning a home than just your mortgage and utilities. “There's the

first time you go to shovel your walk and realize you don't have a snow shovel,” says Nielsen. While a shovel is a small expense, add to that a lawn mower to cut your grass, painting supplies, and all the miscellaneous items that come with owning a home — not to mention maintenance costs — and you could end up spending a couple of thousand dollars a year that you hadn't anticipated.

3. Seek advice from various people

Buying your first home can be a daunting experience. Surround yourself with people who can provide you with advice on everything from how to purchase your home to how to secure financing and ultimately how to maintain your property. “It's the single biggest expense you're ever going to have in your life,” says Nielsen. “You need all these kinds of specialists in your community to provide you with the competence for that purchase.”

4. Keep your lifestyle in mind

Mortgage payments, property taxes, insurance,



Plan ahead when looking to buy a home by setting a budget to account for emergencies and little extras. ISTOCK

utilities ... all these bills and more can seriously change the lifestyle you've grown accustomed to. Consider how much you spend on entertainment, education and vacations and ask yourself what you're willing to give up to own your own home. “Sometimes that means waiting longer, saving more before you get into the market,” says Nielsen, who advises first-time buyers to consider all the components that make for a satisfying life and weigh these against home ownership.

5. Look ahead

When Nielsen and her husband purchased their first home, their financial adviser asked her to consider what her life would look like several years down the road and to purchase the biggest house she could afford rather than settling for a “starter home.” Nielsen sat on the sidelines for a while until she was able to save enough money to buy a family home with an extra bedroom. “That allowed us to have two children and not have to move,” she says.

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Inside out, outside in

SUMMER READY

How to turn outdoors into a summer haven

Andrea Janus

If your home has even a few square feet of outdoor space, it's that time again to tackle the job of getting it ready for the few precious months you have to enjoy it.

Getting the patio, rooftop deck or solarium summer-ready doesn't have to be a daunting task, especially if you take time to consider a key question.

Think about what function you want the space to serve, advises interior designer William MacDonald of WillMac Design. Is it a space to dine al fresco on warm summer nights, or a place to put your feet up with a glass of wine and the Sunday paper? If your space is big enough for both, great.

But in a space with limited square footage, like a solarium or a condo balcony, "it's important to make a choice," MacDonald said.

"You have to base your design ideas in reality."

Answering this question may involve spending some time in the space before making big decor investments.

"Get a stool and sit outside and see what times you like to be out there," MacDonald said.

When you're ready to move on to decor, approach the outdoor space as you would your indoor space: invest in good-quality larger pieces — like dining sets, chairs and loungers.

"It's a good investment," MacDonald said. "You'll only buy them once."

Opt for neutral tones, like black, brown, grey, white or cream, and then you can go cheap and cheerful, not to mention colourful, for accessories like outdoor rugs, pillows, poufs and blankets.

Current colour trends include jewel tones — think orange, turquoise and yellow — but softer pastels appear poised to make a comeback in the next year or two, MacDonald predicts. Dusty blue, lilac and rose make for a very traditional look, but also hold up well outdoors because they don't show dust as much as darker tones.

Whether your space is for dining or lounging, or both, everything that goes in it is affected by one key factor: the weather. Make sure your decor can withstand sun, heat, wind and rain, MacDonald says.

That means hurricane lanterns to hold candles, weather-



Invest in quality neutral furniture and explore colour trends with inexpensive accessories. iSTOCK

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proof fabrics like Sunbrella for pillows, cushions and umbrellas, and outdoor rugs.

And don't forget about lighting. Standing lamps work well in smaller spaces. Uplights, which sit on the ground and project lighting upward, can be planted around a garden or patio, while electric candles can be spaced at intervals around a balcony or rooftop terrace.

Finish off the look with some greenery: a handful of large outdoor planters for a big space or boxwood to line a smaller space.

+ TIPS FOR SAVING ON OUTDOOR DECOR

Buy off-season: Good-quality patio furniture can cost as much as indoor items, so buy your big pieces over the winter, MacDonald says. "You'll get a better price, and you'll get it on time."

Play the long game: If you can't buy everything at once, buy the big, must-have items first (tables, chairs) and add

accessories as you can.

Repurpose: Buy outdoor furniture that can be brought inside to a solarium or living room for the winter, and "re-merchandise" accessories from the patio around the house. Chinese garden stools, for instance, can be added to the living room, powder room or bedroom.

GARDENING

Small, outdoor space? Consider a raised bed

Not everyone has a traditional yard with ample space for perennial gardens and a vegetable patch. Despite this, clever green thumbs are maximizing the space they do have to grow a variety of edible crops.

Here are a few tips that will give you a head start on your garden.



A raised bed kit is ideal for small areas. DONNA GRIFFITH

Consider your space's growing conditions

Most vegetables, especially the heat seekers — tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, etc. — require at least six to eight hours of sunlight a day to bear flowers and then fruit. Take a few days to assess where the sun moves in your space throughout the day to make sure you get enough light. If your space is windy, consider using a shield to protect your plants.

One great thing about raised beds is they can be placed anywhere, making them ideal for a small, urban yard, where the soil may be poor quality. Patio stones and decks are also great space candidates. If all the sunlight happens to shine on your driveway, for example, consider a long, narrow raised bed that runs alongside or some other type of raised bed structure that will still fit when the car is parked.



Vertical gardens maximize space. DONNA GRIFFITH

Grow up, up, up!

Vertical gardening isn't a new buzzword, but it's one that continues to gain traction as green thumbs get creative with their growing structures. To grow vining veggies, install a small trellis system to train plants to grow up-

wards towards the sky. This also leaves more space in the actual garden to grow other things. You can also buy or build tiered structures with "drawers" you can fill with soil and plant greens, like lettuce or herbs, which thrive in a shallower space.

Upcycle a raised bed

Antique markets, your parents' backyard, these are both places where you may find items you can upcycle into a garden. Old wooden washtubs, wine barrels, wooden suitcases, you name it. Stock tanks are another modern-looking option that you can buy new or used. And an old table can easily be transformed into a mini-salad garden.

Consider gardening in fabric pots

Fabric pots come in all shapes and sizes and because they're so lightweight, they are perfect for balconies and rooftops. (Note: If you are gardening on a balcony or roof, be sure to look into weight restrictions before introducing a raised bed to the space.)



Fabric pots are easy to store. JOSHUA WHITE FOR WOOLLY POCKET

Many fabric-raised beds are deep enough to plant root vegetables. The best part is you can empty them out and fold them up (be sure they're dry first) for the winter months, pulling them out again next spring. This also makes it easier to bring your "raised bed" with you when you move. Les Urbainculteurs and Woolly Pocket have online shops that sell fabric-raised beds.

Consider a kit

Kits may seem pricey, but consider them a long-term investment. Local companies, such as Freedom Growing, offer raised bed kits perfect for a small area that gets a lot of sun, like the corner of a patio or balcony. And everything you need to put them together will be delivered right to your door. If you don't have the tools, borrow them from a neighbour or a local tool-lending library.

Some companies will deliver a raised bed kit, build it and bring along the soil required to fill it.

TARA NOLAN



"I've always wanted to go against Wade in a playoff series": LeBron James eyes a possible Eastern Conference final vs. his former team

Battening down the hatches

NBL CANADA

Hurricanes bring No. 1 record into post-season

Kristen Lipscombe
Metro | Halifax

The Halifax Hurricanes plan to come out at full force for this year's NBL Canada playoffs without letting last season's controversial conclusion rain on their championship run.

The Canes tip off against the Island Storm in Game 1 of the best-of-five, first-round series on Thursday at home.

Halifax finished first in the this regular season (29-11), setting a standard for success following a 2014-15 campaign that ended with the Halifax Rainmen forfeiting Game 7 of their final series against the Windsor Express.

"It's a whole different team, a whole different story; new season," said Hugo Lopez, who joined the Hurricanes last September.

"That's water under the

Having a team in Halifax (that is) No. 1 in the country, is something special.

Hurricanes head coach Hugo Lopez

ROUND 1 SKED

GAME 1

Thursday, 7 p.m. at Scotiabank Centre in Halifax

GAME 2

Friday, 7 p.m. in Halifax

GAME 3

Sunday, 2 p.m. at Eastlink Centre in Charlottetown

GAME 4

May 10, 7 p.m. in Charlottetown

GAME 5

May 11, 7 p.m. in Halifax



Point guard Cliff Clinkscales is the only returning player from last season's Halifax Rainmen. JEFF HARPER/METRO

give importance to every detail, to every piece of the Storm's strategy."

Off the court, Lopez has asked his guys "to keep their same routine, that they've been doing all season."

The Storm edged the Hurricanes 101-100 last Saturday at the Eastlink Centre in Charlottetown but Halifax has a 9-2 record against the Charlottetown-based club overall this season.

"We haven't talked about anything like that," Lopez said.

"We're preparing for this series in the same way we prepare for every single game. We

well, and they dominate the tempo, they're quick enough," Lopez said. "They can hurt us."

"We've got to take care of the ball a little bit better than we did last time and control the pace of the game."

Lopez said his Hurricanes are feeling "positive" but knows the playoffs offer a fresh start for every team.

"Whatever happened in the regular season, really doesn't matter," Clinkscales said Wed-

nesday. "We just have to play Hurricanes basketball, be ourselves (and) take care of the basketball, most importantly."

Elsewhere in the Atlantic Division, the Moncton Miracles are taking on the Saint John Mill Rats starting Wednesday at Moncton Coliseum.

In the Central Division, the London Lightning are up against the Orangeville A's and the Niagara River Lions face the defending champion Windsor

Express.

Lopez said the "chemistry" that the Hurricanes have found this year will be key.

"We get along with each other really well," he said, adding the players "wanted to get better every single day in practice."

"And I think we've done it."

"We're feeling pretty confident," Clinkscales added. "We're just ready for the playoffs to get started. Ready for Game 1."

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HONDA **SUZUKI** **YAMAHA**

NBA

Bosh ruled out for remainder of season

Chris Bosh's season is now officially over, regardless of how far the Miami Heat advance in this post-season.

The Heat and Bosh made the announcement Wednesday afternoon after the team practised in Toronto, ending rampant speculation in recent days that Bosh would try to return to the court during the playoffs.

Bosh has not played since the all-star break after a blood clot was discovered in his left leg. It's the second consecutive year that Bosh's season ended at the break because of problems with clotting, and the joint statement came one day after the National Basketball Players Association

\$77M

The amount, over three years, left on Bosh's contract with the Heat.

urged Bosh and the team to resolve any issues they have about his immediate future.

"The Miami Heat and Chris Bosh announce that Chris will not be playing in the remainder of the 2016 NBA Playoffs," read the statement. "The Heat, Chris, the doctors and medical team have been working together throughout this process and will continue to do so to return Chris to

playing basketball as soon as possible."

Bosh was averaging a team-best 19.1 points at the break, when the clot was found after he arrived in Toronto for the all-star weekend.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Baseball's best Cubs sweep Pirates

Pirates manager Clint Hurdle was succinct with his assessment after getting swept by the Chicago Cubs.

"We just got out-executed for three days in a row," Hurdle said.

Ben Zobrist hit a three-run home run, Anthony Rizzo also connected and Jon Lester worked out of a pair of jams to lead the NL Central-leading Cubs over the second-place Pirates 6-2 Wednesday for a three-game sweep.

With its seventh win in eight games, Chicago improved to a major league-best 20-6. The Cubs have won seven straight road games and completed their first sweep in Pittsburgh since Sept. 7-9, 2012. They lead the division by six games.



Jon Lester GETTY IMAGES

Lester (3-1) scattered eight hits in 5 2/3 scoreless innings, struck out five and walked two. The left-hander has allowed one run or none in five of six starts this season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SOCcer in brief

Los Blancos beat Man City, set up all-Madrid final

Real Madrid ground out a convincing 1-0 victory over Manchester City on Wednesday to line up a Champions League final against city rival Atletico Madrid.

The second leg of the semifinal was decided by a superb shot by Gareth Bale from a tight angle that deflected off defender Fernando in the 20th minute and was marked down as an own goal. Madrid advanced with a 1-0 aggregate win after a scoreless first-leg last week. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ESPN welcomes Wambach as analyst and contributor

Retired U.S. soccer star Abby Wambach is joining ESPN as an analyst and a contributor.

Wambach, the leading career scorer in international soccer, will cover the European Championships in France and the Rio Olympics in August. But her role won't be limited to soccer: She will work across multiple platforms including ESPN Films and shows including Outside the Lines, according to the network.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Auston Matthews, right, says playing professionally in Switzerland this past season has improved many areas of his game.

MARC SCHUMACHER/EQ IMAGES VIA ZUMA PRESS

'I feel I'm ready'

HOCKEY

Matthews will bring NHL-level skill to world championship

Auston Matthews says he is ready for the NHL.

Matthews is the most likely player the Maple Leafs will choose with the first overall pick in June, a player with the ability to be a No. 1 centre and the drive that sets him apart from the rest of his draft class.

"It's a grind, 82 games, but I definitely think I'm ready for it," Matthews told Torstar News Service in a phone interview. "There will be a learning curve. At the same time, others have gone through it. I feel I'm

ready."

The 18-year-old Matthews, who came to love hockey watching the Coyotes while growing up in Scottsdale, Ariz., will spend May with Team USA at the world hockey championship in Russia. It's a tournament he believes will only help him as a player.

"There are a lot of experienced players playing in this. A lot of NHLers," he said.

The tournament will also be the last chance for scouts to have a look at Matthews and Patrik Laine, the likely No. 2 pick who will suit up for Fin-

land.

Matthews has been used to having the critical eyes of scouts and critics on him this season. But another set of discerning eyes will be on him in Russia — those belonging to Leafs head coach Mike Babcock.

"He's one of the best coaches in the league," Matthews said. "Very well-respected. He's won the Cup."

When he was in Detroit, they always made the playoffs, always had good teams. He coaches the Olympic team. He's a very good coach."

If Matthews has done some

“

It's a very historic organization, an Original Six team, and it would be a fun place to play.

Auston Matthews on Toronto and the Maple Leafs

homework on Babcock, then Babcock has done even more on Matthews.

"A real good kid," Babcock said Tuesday. "Ultra competitive. Elite talent. Unbelievable hands. Wants to be great."

"I got to know him a little bit last year. Tony Granato was one of my assistant coaches, and his brother, Don, coached him (with the U.S. Development Team). So they brought him (Matthews) and (Matthew) Tkachuk into our office the odd time."

"Obviously, I took an interest in watching him. He's a real good player. I'll get a chance to watch him at the world championships. Laine, too. Mark Hunter (the Leafs director of player personnel) gets paid the big bucks to make that decision. I'm sure he'll make a good one."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

FORT MCMURRAY WILDFIRE

Blues' Upshall on edge over hometown havoc

St. Louis Blues forward Scottie Upshall has numerous family members who live in Fort McMurray, Alta., including a brother and his fiancée, plus aunts, uncles and nieces.

Playing Game 3 against the Dallas Stars in the second round of the playoffs was a welcome diversion from thoughts about the devastation wrought by a raging wildfire that has forced the evacuation of about 88,000 residents from the city

surrounded by wilderness in the heart of Canada's oil sands region.

"Most of my family was trying not to overplay it at all, but there was nothing to really overplay when something like that happens," Upshall said.

Upshall's nieces were among those evacuated, although his brother and fiancée were in St. Louis to watch the game. Officials have said hundreds of structures were damaged

or destroyed.

"It's been a great city, a city that's survived for many years through some tough times and for me, growing up there doesn't seem too long

ago," said Upshall, who is 32. "Places that probably aren't

standing anymore will be really, really tough to take. But as long as everyone's OK, that's the main thing."

Unseasonably hot temperatures combined with dry conditions are blamed for feeding the wildfire.

"It's tough when it becomes national and global news for a city of 80,000 people," Upshall said.

"It's pretty upsetting."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Scottie Upshall

GETTY IMAGES FILE

RECIPE Lemon Thyme Chicken Burger



Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Lemon and thyme are such an appealing spring flavour combo that we come back to it over and over. It's an unexpected addition to a burger and don't skip the goat cheese which takes it over the top.

Ready in
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes

Ingredients
 • 1lb ground chicken
 • 2 Tbsp fresh thyme
 • 1 Tbsp lemon zest
 • 1 egg, whisked
 • 1 Tbsp lemon juice
 • 1/2 onion, finely minced
 • 1/4 cup breadcrumbs
 • 2 tsp dijon mustard
 • salt and pepper
 • 1 Tbsp vegetable oil

- 4 wholewheat rolls
- toppings like lettuce, tomatoes, goat cheese

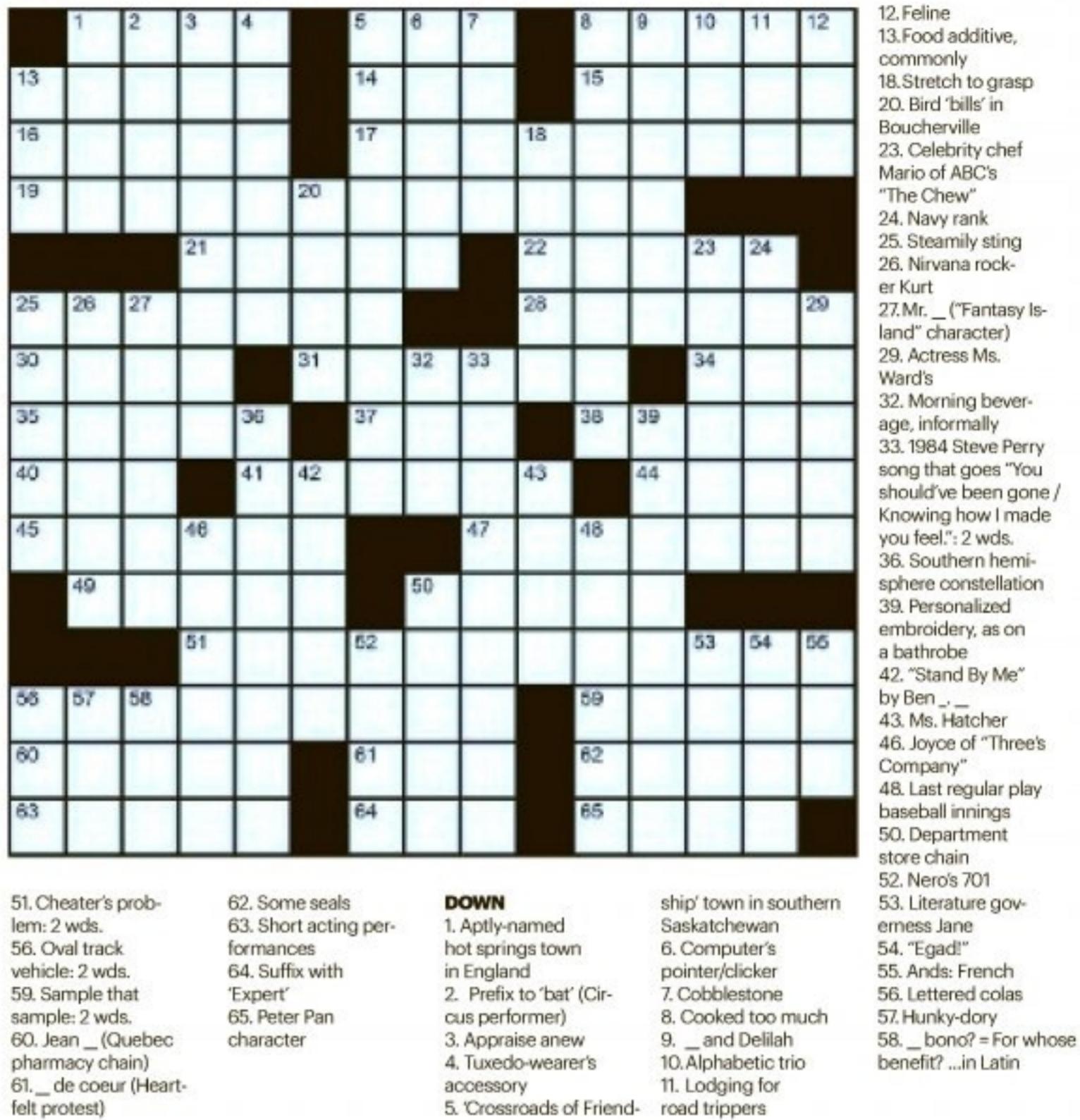
Directions

1. In a large bowl, mix together the meat, thyme, zest, juice, egg, breadcrumbs, onions mustard and salt and pepper. Using your hands, form the mixture into 4 x 1/2 inch-thick patties.
2. Heat up your pan or barbecue. Add a drop of vegetable oil to the pan if you're cooking them on the stove. Cook the patties over medium/high heat for about 5 minutes on each side. You want the internal temperature to be between 165 and 170.
3. Top your buns with whatever your family likes but we highly recommend goat cheese.

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CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



*IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Business, commerce and all financial dealings are blessed today — no question. Do the deal. In addition, purchases of beautiful things for yourself and loved ones will please you. Ka-ching!

Taurus April 21 - May 21
You love beautiful things, good food and the outdoors, especially lovely gardens. Today is the perfect day to enjoy these things. It's also a lovely day for romance.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Solitude in beautiful surroundings will delight you today. Pamper yourself in any way that you can.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You will enjoy hanging out with creative, charming people today. You feel social and warm-hearted toward others.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You will make a great impression on bosses, parents, teachers and VIPs today. In fact, a flirtation or romance with your boss or someone in a position of authority might blossom.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Give yourself a chance to see beautiful places today. Travel for pleasure will be a treat, because you will truly appreciate the artistic creations of others.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Because you can benefit from the wealth and resources of others today, this is a good time to ask for a loan or a mortgage. In all your dealings with others, people will be generous to you.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Relations with partners and close friends are warm and friendly today. This is a great day for a date or schmoozing with the general public.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Co-workers are supportive today. You might get a raise or praise! You will enjoy making your workplace more attractive in some way. (Let others help you if they offer.)

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Love at first sight is encouraged by the stars today. Whatever you do will be pleasant, fun-loving and enjoyable, because this is a lighthearted, pleasant day.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
This is a good day to check out real estate deals or to buy something beautiful for your home. Invite the gang over for good food and drink, because today also favors family get-togethers.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You can make money with your words today, which is good news for writers, actors, teachers and people in sales.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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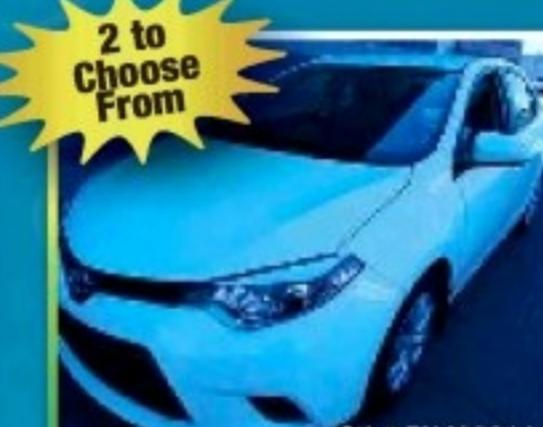
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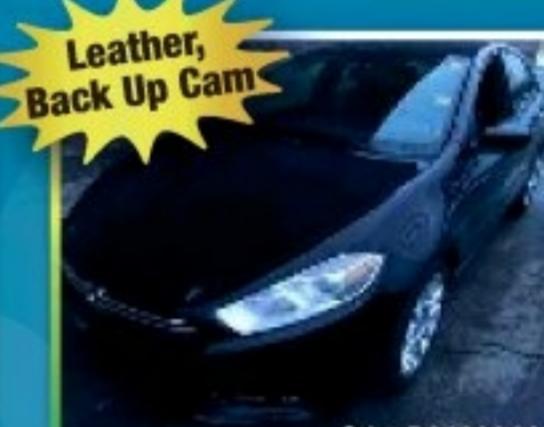
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